

# The History of Troup Factory

As taken from,

“Brooks of Honey and Butter,  
Plantations and People of Meriwether County, Georgia”

by

William H. Davidson

1971

Pages 310-399

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## Robertson, Leslie & Company

Troup Factory, Georgia

"Very Safe, Prudent Firm"

Cane Point was the nearest post office to the Indian and pioneer ford on Flat Shoals Creek, Troup County, Georgia, later known as Troup Factory. John C. Traylor was the first postmaster and Cane Point was established March 9, 1843.

William E. Marcus was named postmaster January 22, 1845 and William G. Marcus on March 11, 1850.

A few miles away, at O'Neal's Mills, Hilliard O'Neal (1809-1890), was named postmaster there February 27, 1850. The mills were downstream from Troup Factory on Flat Shoals Creek.

Cane Point post office was discontinued December 23, 1852 and its mail sent to O'Neal's Mills after that date.

The Mercantile Agency\* of New York had reports for clients inquiring about the new cotton manufactory of Robertson, Leslie & Company built in 1846-47 on Flat Shoals Creek. They showed Cane Point as the post office. Troup Factory was the name of the new water powered mill about twelve miles southeast of LaGrange.

Thomas Leslie was appointed postmaster of the newly established Troup Factory post office on April 5, 1847. From that time until 1902 there was a post office at the village of Troup Factory.

J. M. C. ROBERTSON.

OFFICE OF

T. LESLIE.

ROBERTSON, LESLIE & CO.

MERCHANTS AND MANUFACTURERS OF

Heavy Cotton Checks and Stripes, White and Colored Cotton Yarns,

HEAVY AND LIGHT OSNABURGS, MATTRESSES, &c., &c.,

Troup Factory, Ga., Oct. 14<sup>th</sup> 1878

Dear Pa:

Mr. Hall Dallis who lives on the Glanton place near here came to me this morning, proposing to take your home place and Kendall place on shares if such an arrangement can be made.

ROBERTSON, LESLIE & CO. LETTERHEAD - From a letter written October 14, 1878 by John L. Robertson to his father, James M. C. Robertson.

Robertson, Leslie & Company, in which Thomas Leslie was a partner, was organized to build, operate and manage Troup Factory. The members of the company, "men of character & property," were:

David E. Beeman  
Isaac C. Beeman

Maxey Brooks  
Thomas Leslie

T. Molby  
Alexander M. Ragland

James M. C. Robertson

The new company was first recorded in The Mercantile Agency's credit ledger "C Book, July, 1847." The organizers had "joint means of \$40,000. or \$50,000.," with which they established the manufactory. In addition, they opened a store or commissary in connection with the factory for the trade of the operatives.

\*also R. G. Dun & Company, New York, a predecessor of Dun & Bradstreet, Inc., New York, formed of R. G. Dun & Company and the Bradstreet Company in 1933.



At this time, Maxey Brooks, proprietor of Brooks' Mill, and his family, were among the few who lived in the vicinity of the new Troup Factory, built practically alongside his mill. Brooks' Mill was a grist mill to which had been added wool carding machines.

James Madison Creed Robertson and Thomas Leslie lived in Greenville, Meriwether County. The others were citizens living in Troup or Meriwether.

Mercantile Agency said of the men in Robertson, Leslie & Company that they were "not over prompt [in payment] but always good for their debts."

Thomas Leslie was the manager of the business, "his credit and capacity good." For several years he had been in partnership with James M. C. Robertson. As Robertson & Leslie, they operated a mercantile store and hotel in Greenville. They were early settlers of the county, formed from Troup County in 1827.

Mercantile Agency abbreviations, some listed below, have been spelled out in the quotations from their ledgers for ease of reading.

bus	business	E/W	estimated worth	ppty	property
dg	doing	gd	good	w	worth
ef	efficient	G S	general store		

Terse comments and remarks of the entries made in the ledgers are brief, concise and meaningful.

March 28, 1848

Concern said to be worth 60 M \$ [\$60,000.].

February 24, 1849

Very safe, prudent firm, worth 40 or 50 M \$.

June 9, 1849

"L" [Leslie] resides at a new factory owned by the firm & others & said to be very valuable. They [Leslie and Robertson] are men of good character, business habits and responsibility, each married, 30 @ 35 years old.

"L" gave in for tax this year town lots in Greenville, \$1,400., 3 slaves & 480 acres of land.

Firm [Robertson, Leslie & Company] reputed strong and solvent, prompt, not speculative, deemed safe, done business here 12 or 18 months.

From July, 1849 to March, 1853 the entry on Robertson, Leslie & Company was "No change."

March 1, 1853

We learn that "A. M. Ragland," one of the Co., has sold his interest to David E. Beeman who is married, aged about 40, steady business habits, worth about 50 @ 60 M \$, largely interested in line of [stage] coaches which we learn are profitable, firm good.

The census of Meriwether County in 1850 listed David E. Beeman as age 40. His occupation was staging and he lived near Greenville on the LaGrange Road. He was born in New Jersey.

Value of real estate owned by Beeman was \$13,157., and he had thirteen slaves.

Six men, whose occupation was staging, were listed with him in the census.

From July, 1853 to January, 1857, the entry was "No change, good, perhaps worth \$100,000."

February 5, 1858

Good. Not sued.

September 13, 1859

The Co. now consists of the Estates of "David E. Beeman" & "Thos. C. Evans," joint property 1 slave, \$1,100.; Money & solvent debts \$25,000.; Merchandise \$5,000.; Capital invested in stock, manufactories, &c., \$65,548.

David E. Beeman was evidently deceased between February 5, 1858 and September 13, 1859.

Thomas Crenshaw Evans was born in South Carolina on August 22, 1806. A colorful early settler of Troup County, he was a captain in the Indian War of 1836 and became a general of state militia. During the Indian removal from Georgia, he headed troops escorting them westward. Elected ordinary of Troup County, he served 1856-58.

Mr. Evans married Rhoda B. Swanson of a pioneer Troup County family on December 16, 1830. She was born October 15, 1813 and died March 4, 1862. He died May 5, 1858. They are buried at Hillview Cemetery, LaGrange.

Other items of the entry for September 13, 1859 were:

Robertson resides in Meriwether Co. Gives and pays tax there, don't know what amount, but learn credibly he is very wealthy.

L's [Leslie's] individual property consists of 500 acres of land in Cherokee Co. [Georgia] \$1,000., 3 slaves \$3,000., other property \$800.

B & E's [Beeman's and Evans'] Estates will each be distributed. "B" left a large estate & "E" moderate, no suits or judgment Vs. them that we know of.

October 13, 1859

The firm is good beyond doubt. They run Cotton Mills and keep goods of all sorts for the benefit of their operatives [in the store or commissary].

November 3, 1859

[Firm] composed of Thos. Leslie, Estates of D. E. Beeman & Thos. C. Evans & many other wealthy men, in business 10 or 12 years.

The Co. owns 1 slave worth \$1,000. Money & solvent debts \$25,200.; merchandise \$5,000.; Capital invested in Stocks \$65,548., whole property \$96,848. Are doing a splendid business and good for any amount they wish.

December 7, 1859

No Change. Neither of the Estates withdrawn.

July 1, 1860

In business 12 years. Good for any amount they may want.

Firm owns 1 slave, \$1,100., name of Sam.

[Money & solvent debts] \$25,200.; Mdse. \$5,000.; Capital invested in stock \$65,548.

The entry of July 1, 1860 ended the record of Robertson, Leslie & Company prior to the Civil War.

Troup Factory engaged in manufacturing goods for the Confederate States of America. Some of its key operatives were deferred from military service to keep it running.

A new grist mill for wheat and corn grinding was installed in 1861. Mention of this improvement in the property is made in a business letter of Thomas Leslie to James M. C. Robertson, Greenville, dated at Troup Factory on April 4, 1861:

Your last was rec'd, and cotton priced as per your instructions. The day you instructed to price, I bought 21 bales of A. [Abner] Glanton [pioneer of Troup County, whose plantation was between Troup Factory and the west boundary of Meriwether County], all good Middling at 11¼¢ lb. Yours I thought to price at 11¢.

Since then, fine grades have gone as high as 11½¢ to 11¾¢, and one lot at 12¢.

I write now more particularly to say that our new [grist] mill is complete & ready for all work. At present we cannot get wheat for the obvious reason that there is none in the country & in the West it is too high to ship.

Suppose you send a load down [from the Robertson plantation in Meriwether County], mixed of corn & wheat. We will put it through in a night.

If you want Linseed Oil, I will order it from the West for you. The only difficulty now is in getting it along as soon as you need.

Mr. Leslie closed his letter to Mr. Robertson by saying, "Beeman [Isaac C.] not come yet." Mr. Beeman was handling the interests of the deceased David E. Beeman. They were probably brothers.

#### After the Civil War

The first entry on the ledger sheet of Robertson, Leslie & Company after the Civil War was dated February 27, 1866:

Same parties still carry on business. They are doing a good business.

"Beeman," one of the parties, is living in the City of New York & understand he proposes to remain there. Think the three partners [Robertson, Leslie and Beeman] are worth some 300 M \$.

"L" [Leslie] manages the concern alone. The factory property is worth some 100 M \$.

December, 1866

Under efficient management of Thomas Leslie. Worth 50 M \$. Doing efficient and successful business.

January 8, 1867

Robertson, Greenville, Planter, worth about 20 M \$.

Thos. Leslie, Troup Factory, General Agent, worth about 150 M \$.

Isaac C. Beeman, who lives in one of the Northern States, owns R. R. [railroad] Stocks largely & is probably worth 60 M \$.

The factory is in pretty good working order, management prudent & usually punctual [in payment]. A good risk.

October 26, 1867

Wealthy. Consists of Thos. Leslie, Robertson and Isaac C. Beeman, worth collectively 100 M \$. Deal punctual and successfully.

July 21, 1868

This is a strong firm, worth 75 M \$.

July 11, 1870

All right.

A. C. FERRELL,  
W. H. HUNTLEY,

DIRECTORS:  
A. D. ABRAHAM, President.

JNO. W. PARK,  
S. P. SMITH.



MANUFACTURES

## Heavy Cotton Checks and Stripes,

WHITE AND COLORED COTTON YARNS;

Heavy and Light Osnaburgs, Mattresses, Etc.

Office and Ware-rooms, LaGrange, Ga.

LaGrange, Ga., *Feb 10<sup>th</sup>* 1882

Dear Pa:

Your Cotton weighed 540-565-1105<sup>4</sup>@10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>  
\$116.02. I could not get more than 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>¢ and I  
did not see the use of storing it when you need  
the money for other uses. Cotton has been declining for  
some days and yesterday was only worth 11<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>¢ in New York  
a clear drop of <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>¢ of. To know what it will do  
hereafter is an impossibility and to take the chances  
as you did last year + put Cotton in warehouse  
with expenses daily growing against it is poor  
policy when you have a use for the money in-  
vested in it - Such is my idea. If hereafter you  
do not think with me you can order positively what  
you want done and I will follow your order.  
I bought slow stock at \$11.65 - \$4.95 - Sent you back  
\$111.05. Meat here is worth 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>¢ - they say worth that in

TROUP FACTORY LETTERHEAD - From a letter written February 10, 1882 by John L. Robertson to his father,  
James M. C. Robertson.

January 1, 1871

All right.

May 24, 1871

All right. Plenty of means &c. Wealthy and successful.

January 29, 1872

All right in all respects. Good, moneyed men. "L" [Leslie] has plenty of means.

July, 1872

Same.

March, 1873

Capital 75 to 100 M \$. Making money. Very careful & correct. Good for their obligations.

June, 1873

No change.

December, 1873

No change.

Robertson, Leslie & Company survived the Civil War and operated successfully thereafter. It is a credit to their business acumen that they ably managed the business through the Panic of 1873 and subsequent depression years.

"No change" was recorded for June, 1874 and December, 1874. The entry for June, 1875 was "No change. Strong firm."

December, 1875

Good for any amount. Means ample. They are regarded as wealthy.

"No change" was entered in June and December, 1876; June and December, 1877 and June, 1878.

December, 1878

Careful and correct men. Good for obligations. Estimated worth 75 M to 100 M \$.

June, 1879

No change.

August 25, 1879

(In reply to special enquiry). Has this party ever been burnt out? Never. General reputation good. General worth & standing excellent. No reason to believe that he is seeking an excessive insurance.

December, 1879

No change.

March, 1880

Own and run the Troup Cotton Factory, also keep General Store.

Successful men in good standing and credit. Regarded responsible for engagements.

Estimated worth 75 to 100 M \$.

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*Author's Note:*

Quotations in this article from the early credit ledgers of Dun & Bradstreet Collection, Manuscript Division, Baker Library, Harvard University Graduate School of Business Administration, Boston, Massachusetts, are used by permission of Dun & Bradstreet, Inc., New York, granted June 13, 1969.

As required, the manuscript was submitted to the Librarian of Baker Library and forwarded to Dun & Bradstreet for review.

The early credit ledgers in the Dun & Bradstreet Collection at Harvard are those of R. G. Dun & Company, also known as "The Mercantile Agency," a predecessor of Dun & Bradstreet.

## **Troup Factory**

### **Troup County, Georgia**

James Madison Creed Robertson and Thomas Leslie, early settlers of Meriwether County, Georgia, were the partners longest identified with Troup Factory. Leslie moved to Troup County and lived at Troup Factory village after the predecessor mill, Brooks' Mill, was bought by Robertson, Leslie & Company in 1846 and their new cotton factory began operations in 1847.

Brooks' Mill was a well established grist mill in which wool carding machinery was installed in 1843, or earlier. Troup Factory, owned and operated by Robertson, Leslie & Company, was a pioneer textile manufactory in Western Georgia.

Maxey Brooks built the grist mill in 1829, the cotton factory building in 1846 and a dye house building in 1847. He was a pioneer Troup County settler, listed in the 1830 census as a male of 30 and under 40 years of age and head of a family. He also appeared in the 1840 census of Troup County as head of a family.



An expert millwright, Maxey Brooks built another Brooks' Mill on Cane Creek, near Raleigh, in Meriwether County. Wool carding was also done at this mill.

Brooks' Mill in Troup County was built in Land Lot No. 239, Third District, on Flat Shoals Creek. It derived power from water of a pond behind a dam of virgin logs erected in 1829. The dam was several hundred yards upstream. For the new cotton factory and continuing grist mill operations a new dam was needed. The log dam was replaced by a rock dam built below it in 1846. A large portion of the rock dam built in 1883 is still in place on each side of the stream bed.

About where the log dam was built, the shoals in Flat Shoals Creek were one of the few dependable fording places on the creek handy to the Indians, traders and pioneers. The route was an offshoot of the main thoroughfare, the famous Oakfuskee Indian Trail, crossing Meriwether and Troup counties westward, thence across the Chattahoochee River into East Alabama.

Maxey Brooks owned lands of the Troup Factory property at his death in 1861, shown by the following extract of "Conveyances of Real Estate," Troup County records at LaGrange, Georgia. All transactions are covered by warranty deeds and begin December 26, 1835 when William W. Carlisle and W. W. Graggs, grantors, sold all of fractional Land Lot No. 239, 87½ acres, in the Third District of Troup County to Maxey Brooks. This land lot was an original grant to Carlisle and Graggs by the State of Georgia in 1828. According to the indenture, it cost Maxey Brooks \$432.00.



MAXEY BROOKS (1791-1861)  
Built Brooks' Mill, a grist mill and wool carding factory on Flat Shoals Creek, and Troup Factory for Robertson, Leslie & Co., 1846-47. From an old sketch. Charles Warren Corless Collection, Troup Factory.

Grantor	Acres	Description of Property		Date Filed	Recorded Book & Page
		Land Lot	Dist.		
Carlisle & Graggs	87½	239	3rd	5- 4-1836	E-303
Whately, Taylor	90	236	3rd	5- 4-1836	E-302
Buck, Absalom	48	15	4th	7-17-1843	H-438
Oliver, James	202½	242	3rd	7-17-1843	H-439
Cook, Thadeus	202½	234	3rd	9- 2-1845	J-98
Hall, Elija	202½	198	3rd	9-11-1845	J-102
Bryant, Samuel	87½	238	3rd	3-27-1848	K-15
Watts, Reuben J.	202½	240	3rd	3-27-1848	K-14

Some of the Troup Factory lands were sold by Maxey Brooks, grantor, and by the administrator of his estate, his son, Thomas J. Brooks, grantor. These conveyances were:

Maxey Brooks, Grantor

Grantee					
Greer, William	33	234	3rd	2- 1-1839	G-224
Gates, James R.	202½	198	3rd	6- 4-1844	H-552
Universalist					
Church, Trustees	2	238	3rd	12- 8-1848	K-122
Truitt, James M.	30	Granger Place		1-20-1855	L-306

Lands sold by administrator's deeds were:

Maxey Brooks, by Thomas J. Brooks, Admr., Grantor

Grantee					
Hardy, Thomas	35	234	3rd	9- 4-1866	M-760
Dallis, V. E.	140	Rough Edge District		2- 5-1894	I-577
Brooks, S. B.	30	Rough Edge District		8- 5-1894	I-576

The "Granger Place," was land sold by Maxey Brooks to James M. Truitt for \$300.00 on July 29, 1854, described in the deed as "all that tract or parcel of land lying and being on the north side of Troup Factory mill pond adjoining the lands of said Truitt on the north and the Factory lands on the west and the mill pond on the south, known heretofore as the Granger Place, supposed to contain thirty acres more or less, on the creek side to the highwater mark." Truitt owned Land Lot No. 271, adjoining Land Lot No. 240.

Maxey Brooks was the son of Simon Brooks (1766-1859), and wife, Mrs. Phoebe Buffington Brooks (1769-1840), of Monroe County, Georgia. They were married in South Carolina in 1795. She was the daughter of Peter and Sarah Buffington.

Simon Brooks was a millwright of acknowledged talent. He taught his sons, Maxey and Ivy, his profession. The two boys once ran away from home and convinced a man they could build him a mill. Swayed by their youth and eagerness to get started on their own careers as millwrights, the man agreed to hire them.

They were not to be paid if the project was a failure! The boys were successful in the endeavor and became partners, a relationship that lasted until they married.

Maxey Brooks married Lucy Thornton in 1830. She was born September 11, 1812 and was the daughter of William Harrison and Diana Griggs Thornton, of Troup County. The couple lived near the Brooks' Mill.

Mrs. Lucy Thornton Brooks died in Meriwether County on October 16, 1879. Maxey Brooks was born August 18, 1791 and died August 8, 1861. They are buried in the Brooks Family Cemetery at Raleigh, Meriwether County, near the site of their home and the ruins of Brooks' Mill on Cane Creek. The grave of Maxey Brooks is unmarked.

Settlers coming into the newly opened counties of Troup and Meriwether brought sheep and a need for wool carding. Cleaning and carding of wool by hand was a tedious process. Maxey Brooks installed a wool carding machine at his mill. It stayed so busy that people welcomed the announcement that he was installing more wool carding machinery at Brooks' Mill in 1843.

Associated with Maxey Brooks was his father-in-law, William Harrison Thornton and Robert Thornton & Co. In the *Columbus Enquirer* for Wednesday, August 16, 1843 a notice appeared about the Brooks facilities:

#### WOOL FACTORY

*Wool Carding* — The subscribers respectfully inform the citizens of Troup County and the adjoining counties, that they have two Wool Factories going on in the same house at Brooks' Mills, and that they are able at any time to dispatch business much better and faster than they have formerly been doing.

They earnestly solicit all those who wish their wool carded to favor them with their custom.

Maxey Brooks  
Harrison Thornton  
Robert Thornton & Co.

Grist mills were usually equipped with stones to grind corn for meal and wheat for flour. Often a distillery was operated as a side line. There is a strong tradition that Maxey Brooks operated a distillery at Brooks' Mill.

Installation of water power driven machines for carding wool was another way to make a profit. Labor costs were not a factor of such importance that with capital a mill could not diversify to this extent.

Plantation owners brought or sent their clipped wool in bags to Brooks' Mill for carding. A toll was taken of the wool for the processing, just as a toll was taken by the miller from all grains brought to the mill to be ground.

Products of a sideline distillery were sometimes sold or bartered for grains and wool. "Liquid refreshment" drew customers.

As the practice of combination milling spread, and machinery for spinning yarns was added, as happened at Troup Factory, yarn dyeing became a natural outgrowth of the operations. Wool yarns and cotton yarns were dyed in a range of colors for an additional toll or price.

The Brooks family accumulated a large number of woven woolen bedspreads or coverlets, sometimes called "coverlids," from tolls. Whenever one of the family married, the couple received useful and colorful coverlets as part of the wedding trousseau.

Services such as provided at Brooks' Mill were of great convenience and benefit to the early settlers of Troup and Meriwether counties. Pioneers at first were hard pressed to make a living,



although the lands were fertile. Land had to be cleared of growth before a crop could be started. The task was easier for those who had slaves. Shelter had to be provided for families and slaves.

Pioneers noted there were plenty of water power sites. Millwrights and millers were part of the migration. A few of the earliest settlers in Meriwether found it necessary to go to a mill on the Towaliga Creek in Monroe County, sixty miles away, for grinding a sack of corn!

One ingenious Meriwether County pioneer, Abner Durham, devised a corn grinding mill of his own. The contraption was described in the *Meriwether Vindicator* for Friday, May 1, 1879:

He fixed a long pole on a pivot. On one end he fastened a maul under which he placed a mortar. The other end of the pole he fastened to a little water wheel placed in a branch near his house, so that when the water turned the wheel, that end of the pole would go up and down, and this would necessarily carry the end with the maul on it up and down likewise.

Abner Durham's mortar was probably a dug out portion of a poplar log. The heavy maul, shaped from white oak or hickory, was bulbous at one end, with rounded, rather long handle.

Before going off to his fields in the morning, Abner Durham would fill the mortar with corn to a certain level. He engaged the connection between his water wheel and the pole. The maul pounded away until he returned! He made crude meal in this manner. It could be sifted and used in cornbread, puddings and in other ways.

"One day a hen flew up into the mortar to eat the corn," the *Vindicator* article concluded. "The maul came down upon her and that day the owner had bread and meat mixed."

#### Awareness of an Industry

Maxey Brooks, Robertson, Leslie and others associated with them could see that local handling of cotton should not cease with cotton picking, ginning, baling and shipping elsewhere to be made into yarn and goods.

The cotton textile manufacturing industry scarcely had begun in Georgia. Near Augusta, Richmond Factory, established in 1834, had 40 looms and 15,000 spindles in 1849, according to White's *Statistics of the State of Georgia*.

In 1848, Coweta Falls Manufacturing Company was organized in Muscogee County, Georgia and its mill built on the Chattahoochee River, near Columbus.

There may have been a few other pioneer factories.

The mill projects for spinning and weaving cotton appealed to some as an investment venture for Southern planters, merchants and capitalists. Troup Factory was to take advantage of cotton raised nearby, heretofore shipped for Eastern and English consumption. While sectional pride imbued them somewhat, chief interest lay in the Southern market. Here was a demand, practically unheeded before, for homeland produced textiles, particularly of the cheaper and more common types.

Suitable water power sites were at a premium. The best were often occupied by earlier built grist mills, such as Brooks' Mill. Flat Shoals Creek was a splendid stream for the purpose.



EARLY LOG DAM AT TROUP FACTORY

The original dam at Troup Factory was made of logs. Corless Collection, SOUTHERN VIEWS.

The principals in the firm of Robertson, Leslie & Company were Robertson, Leslie, Maxey Brooks, T. Molby, Alexander M. Ragland, David E. Beeman and Isaac C. Beeman.

James Madison Creed Robertson was a planter and early settler of Greenville, Meriwether County. Thomas Leslie came to Meriwether from Wilkes County about 1835. He and Robertson were partners in Troup Factory and other ventures for about 40 years.

Robertson, Leslie & Company, "Merchants and Manufacturers," owned the cotton factory they named Troup Factory. George M. Troup, Governor of Georgia 1823-27, and Troup County, also named for the governor, were honored by the selection.

David E. Beeman, born in New Jersey, lived next to the old James Swint place on the LaGrange Road, near Greenville. His place was on a well traveled stage coach route and he was interested financially in staging, his occupation. In 1850, his real estate was \$13,157. He owned 13 slaves.

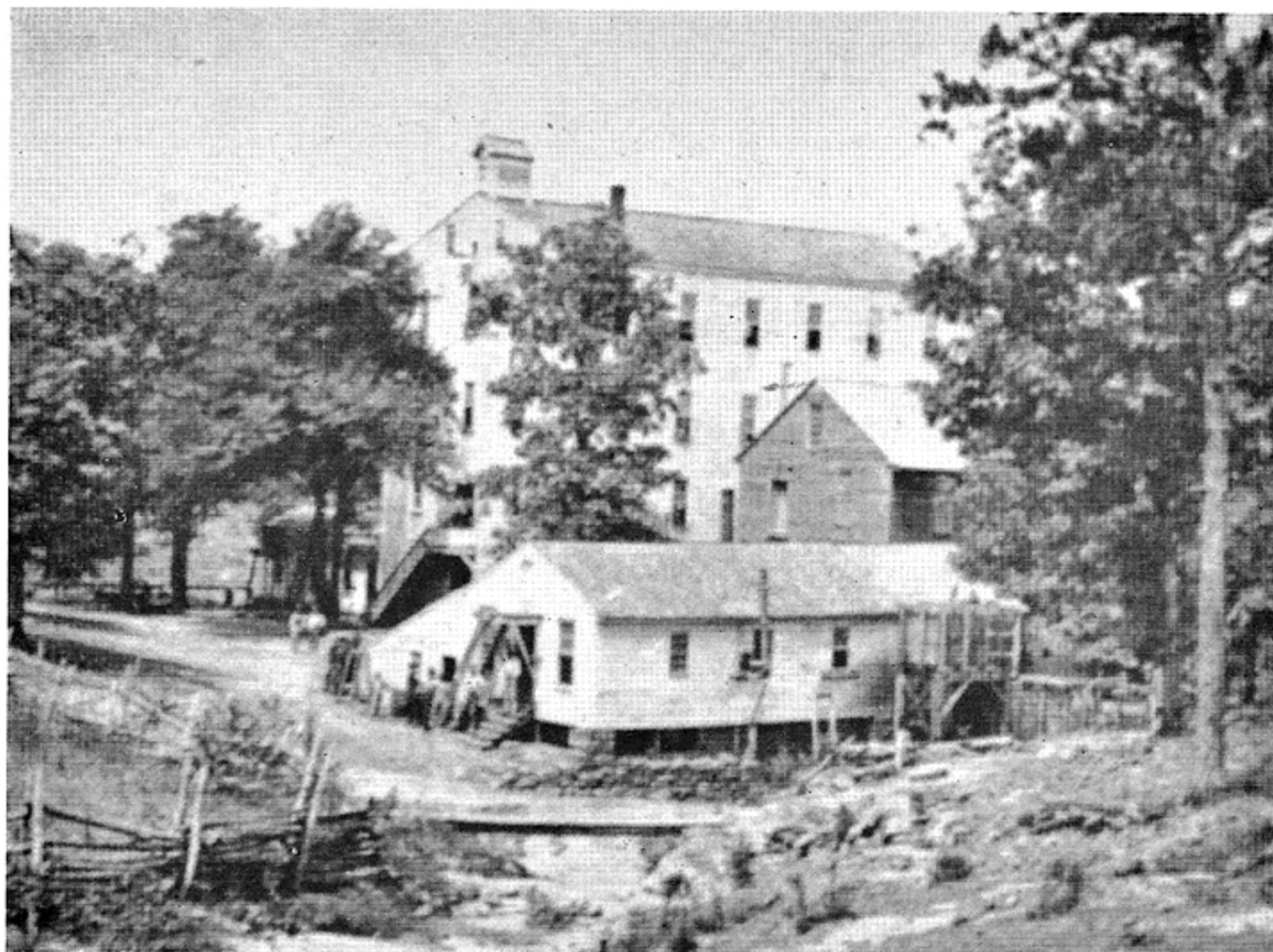
Beeman was apparently unmarried. Six men, stage drivers, were listed, born in as many states! They were: J. D. Witham, 35, Maine; John Masden, 40, Kentucky; David Setton, 33, North Carolina; John Young, 37, Ohio; L. Barker, 27, Tennessee, and D. Gill, 27, Alabama.

#### **Maxey Brooks Builds a Factory**

Maxey Brooks built the four story Troup Factory mill building, with the help of carpenters and slave labor, for Robertson, Leslie & Company. It was placed on foundations paralleling and about twenty feet from the Brooks' Mill, a two story building. Existing works for water power were enlarged.

The framing of the new factory building was made of heart pine timbers, hand hewn, joints mortised, tenoned and pegged. When the framing of the structure was completed, Maxey Brooks put on a "stunt" for the people and workmen.

He began a climb to the top of the towering frame on the bank of Flat Shoals Creek. He shouted for those below to watch. As he reached the top plate, he straddled it and sat for a moment. His boots and socks were tossed into the crowd. With the balance of a daredevil, he walked barefooted all around the perimeter of the top plates!



*TROUP FACTORY — Middle building is original Brooks' Mill for grist milling and wool carding. Later, and at the time of the photograph, Troup Factory "Flouring Mill." Yarn dyeing and drying was done in foreground building. Corless Collection, SOUTHERN VIEWS.*



Troup Factory was a successful combination of water power grist milling and cotton spinning and weaving. Operations began in August, 1847. Its spinning room had 1,000 spindles. The factory employed 35 "hands" and consumed "upwards of 600 pounds of cotton per day," according to an announcement in the *Columbus Enquirer*, for Tuesday morning, September 21, 1847.

At Troup Factory, the announcement declared, "There will be in a few days an addition of 600 spindles and 20 looms that will require a super-added force of 15 or 20 hands. The whole will be started at a cost of about \$30,000." The article continued:

Our informant mentions a fact highly complimentary to the mechanical skill of our State, namely that the concern has been started and put in successful operation by Southern men, no one but a Georgian having been employed to direct or superintend any of the works.

The machinery is equal to any in the Southern country, the yarns, a sample of which we have before us, is of superior quality and spun from good cotton. Indeed, we are informed that no other kind of cotton will be used in the establishment.

It is the opinion of the proprietors that when they get fairly to work they will consume at least 1,000 pounds of cotton per day.

The same issue of the *Enquirer* mentions the ceremonies of laying the cornerstone of The Howard Manufacturing Company, near Columbus, "at sunrise, the time of day for all such things to be done."

Three miles above Columbus, the Columbus Factory and the Coweta Falls Factory were operating. "In the full tide of successful and profitable experiment, they are weekly turning out thousands of yards of cloth and thousands of pounds of yarn as good as the country can require, or the world ever saw."

They are, as are also the others noticed in this connection, in the hands of men of pecuniary ability, of great energy and enterprise, and rapidly growing to a condition at once to supply all demands, and bid defiance to all competition from a distance.

These brave words, of course, were aimed at the New England manufacturing industry. Such factories as Troup Factory, a "thriving establishment," Richmond, Coweta, Howard and others were indeed bold "experiments" of the cotton raising antebellum era. Nevertheless, when proximity to the cotton fields and labor supply was proven, the cotton factories and mills grew rapidly and finally ended, more than 100 years later, New England domination of cotton manufacturing.

#### **Robertson Woolen Mill**

A few miles from Troup Factory, near the confluence of Flat Shoals, Turkey and Pole Cat Creeks, were O'Neal's Mills and Smith's Mill. These early Troup County grist mills were patronized by Troup and Meriwether County residents. The community was known as O'Neal's Mills and a woolen mill was built there in 1847. Pioneering this factory was another Robertson.

Robert Robertson, born in Renfrewshire, Scotland, on January 20, 1810 immigrated to America and Georgia. He settled at O'Neal's Mills and bought from James O'Neal prior to 1847 a mill site on Flat Shoals Creek. The site was in Land Lot 78, Fourth District of Troup County, a short distance west of Smith's Mill, on Turkey Creek. Remains of the Smith's Mill can be seen on the Salem Road.

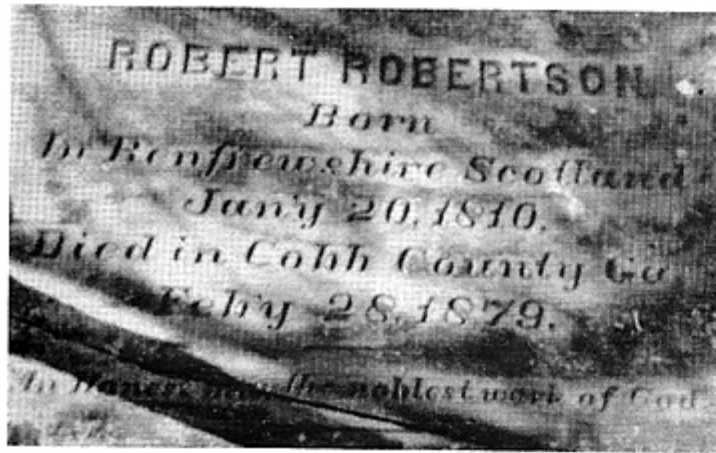
The new, water powered woolen manufactory, known as the Robertson Woolen Mill, was in business for more than 22 years. Patrons brought their wool to the mill, as they had brought it to the Brooks' Mill earlier, for cleaning, scouring and carding. The patron called again for the product after it was put up in long rolls or in balls of a loosely twisted roving formed on spindles after carding. It was then ready to be spun into fine yarn on the spinning wheels by the women at home or by the plantation slaves, preparatory to weaving on the hand looms of the time.

#### **Robert Robertson's Family**

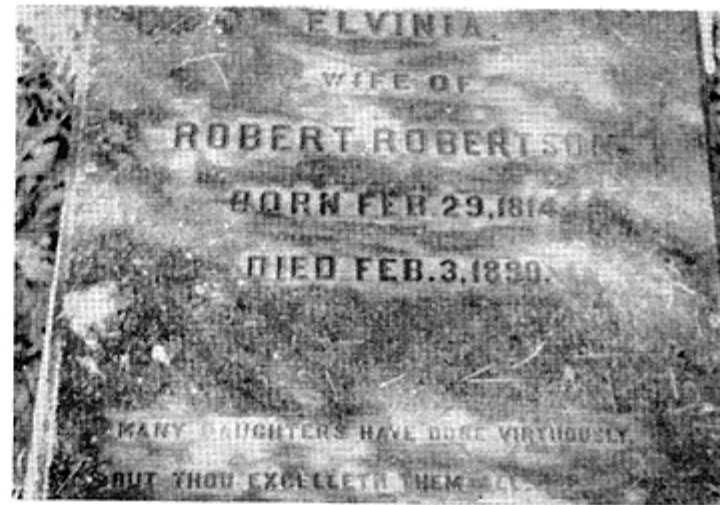
Robert Robertson's age in the 1850 census was 40. He gave his occupation as "manufacturer," and place of birth, Scotland. He had \$1,000. of real estate. His wife, Mrs. Elvinia Robertson, was 37, born in Georgia. Their children were: Mary, 10; Virginia, 8; Emelia, 6 and Elvira, 3.

Listed in the Robertson household was J. Kimbrough, 29, a "spinner" by occupation, who tended and doffed the spindles of the woolen yarn making machinery.

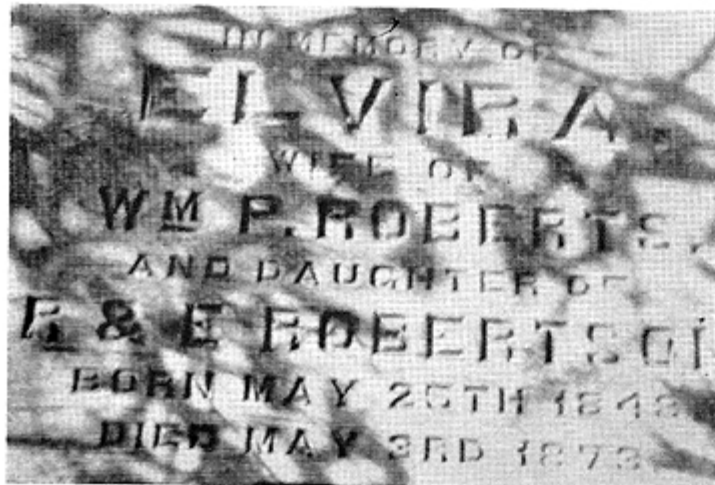
## GRAVES OF THE ROBERT ROBERTSON FAMILY



ROBERT ROBERTSON (1810-1879)  
The founder and proprietor of Robertson Woolen Mill, a few miles below Troup Factory on Flat Shoals Creek.



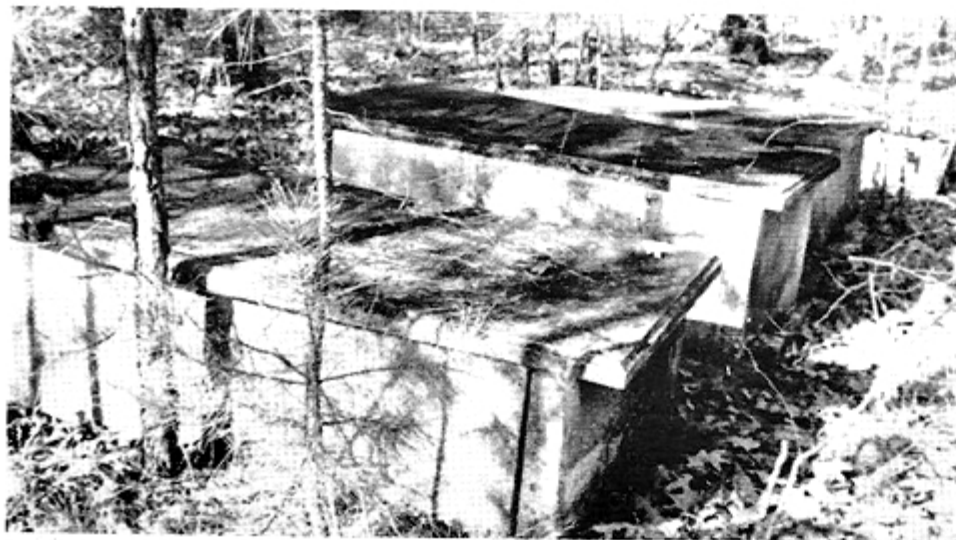
GRAVE OF MRS. ELVINIA ROBERTSON (1814-1890) – Wife of Robert Robertson.



GRAVE OF MRS. ELVIRA ROBERTS (1848-1872)  
Wife of William P. Roberts.



GRAVE OF M. VIRGINIA ROBERTSON (1843-1855)  
Daughter of Robert and Elvinia Robertson.



TOMBS OF ROBERT ROBERTSON AND FAMILY  
O'Neal Cemetery, Burke's Chapel Road, Troup County, Ga. The tombs are native stone boxes with marble slabs on which are the inscriptions.

Robert Robertson and his wife, Mrs. Elvinia Robertson, are buried in the O'Neal Family Cemetery on Burke's Chapel Road. He died in Cobb County, Georgia on February 28, 1879. Robertsons were early settlers and prominent in Cobb County development, so it is likely that he returned there after the Civil War to be with kin. Mrs. Robertson was born February 29, 1814 and died February 3, 1890. Their daughter, M. Virginia Robertson, born May 11, 1843 and died July 7, 1855 is buried by their side.

Another daughter, Elvira, became the wife of William P. Roberts. She was born May 25, 1848 and died May 3, 1872. Mrs. Roberts is buried in the Robertson plot.

## Mills and People

The accomplishments of Robert Robertson, James Madison Creed Robertson, Thomas Leslie and Maxey Brooks were wonders of the era. A pioneered new dimension was added to the economic life of a purely agricultural community.

Mill owners here and elsewhere found that farm and hill people were adaptable to mill village living and easily taught to handle the machines. Many of this native labor supply were eager to



quit the plow and work at the factories as "mill hands," glad for the opportunity to better their lot with a little hard money throughout the year.

A job in the mill, subject to ups and downs of running time, beat the uncertainty of crops raised on credit extended by plantation and farm supply merchants. Oftentimes only the barest living was eked out under the credit arrangement. Sometimes the mill wages were inadequate, too.

The mill hours were long, mostly from "dark to dark," children were employed, and wages small, comparatively, but the magnificent loyalty of the people extended through generations.

Development of cotton mills in the antebellum period was significant socially. The industry, with very few exceptions, operated almost entirely with labor from the large pool of "poor whites" and "piney woods" folks and did not become another slavery venture. Slaves are not known to have been used for manufacturing at Troup Factory and Robertson Woolen Mill. Here and elsewhere it was felt that the slave was not suitable for the mill tasks.

Abundant water power, cheap white labor and cotton directly from the fields and cotton gins contributed greatly to the rise of the cotton mills in the South. Cotton was of better grade, unspoiled by long shipping time, such as in the journey by rail and ocean to New England and Liverpool, damage from weather or other exposure.

The Civil War interrupted an industry making much progress prior to 1860. It resumed its growth in Reconstruction to flower in the decades before 1900 and later.

#### **Gregg's Paternalism**

In 1846, about the time Troup Factory was being built to operate as a cotton manufactory, the important Graniteville Mill of William Gregg was constructed near Augusta, Georgia. The paternalistic policies of Gregg's management influenced others during the expansion of the Southern cotton mill industry.

The mill village people grew accustomed to look to mill management for housing, property upkeep, schools, churches, physicians, civic guidance and social uplift. It was a system bringing untold benefits to generations in many communities of the Southeast. The management of Troup Factory was paternalistic in its attitude and practices.

#### **Demand for a Railroad**

Troup Factory and other cotton mills of the antebellum era turned out Osnaburgs, denims, woolens, other fabrics and yarns for a hungry market right in the South. The demand for quicker and better transportation arose.

Robertson, Leslie & Company's management of Troup Factory was so successful a railroad was projected from the mill to LaGrange, Georgia. The railroad would connect there with the Atlanta & West Point Rail Road.

The LaGrange & Troup Factory Rail Road was incorporated December 22, 1857 by James M. C. Robertson, Thomas Leslie, Jesse McClendon, Thomas J. Thornton, Thomas C. Evans, Orville A. Bull, nephew of Robertson, John W. McGehee and James M. Flowers, the latter a prosperous plantation owner of nearby Big Springs, whose handsome Greek Revival home still stands. See Vol. I, pages 6-9.

#### **Troup Factory's Agent**

William A. Redd & Company, of Columbus, Georgia was named agent for the sale of Troup Factory goods. An advertisement, or "card" announcing the fact appeared in the *Columbus Enquirer* for November 23, 1847. The firm acted as selling agent for several of the cotton manufactories of the area, as well as agent for corn meal and wheat flour made at grist mills. It sold "sideline" production of grain products where grinding was continued along with the cotton carding, spinning and weaving at the water powered factories.

#### **Building a Mill Village**

Robertson, Leslie & Company, owners of Troup Factory, made provision for the housing of their "mill hands" before operations began. Slave labor was used to build the small cottages. The housing finally covered the hillside across the road from the mill proper, both mill and cottages being on the east side of Flat Shoals Creek. The site of the housing was probably a field, as old terraces of piled rock may still be seen around the hillside. A narrow road, or street, wound around the rather steep side, from the main thoroughfare.

There were some springs, but more water for the families had to be obtained for usage and convenience. The 1850 census of the Troup Factory settlement lists William H. Day, from New

Hampshire, and L. Mayberry, from North Carolina, as well diggers by profession. They probably worked in the mill also, with some members of their families.

#### Troup Factory Census of 1850

The 1850 Troup County census lists personnel of Troup Factory whose occupations indicate supervisory or other capacities in connection with the mill:

Name	Occupation	Born
Adams, Hinion	Overseer in Factory	Ga.
Brewer, George	Carpenter	"
Brooks, Maxey	Millwright	"
Brooks, Rodum M.	Millwright	"
Crosby, Edmund	Machinist	"
Crosby, James A.	Superintendent	Fla.
Griggs, Rodum	Cabinet Maker	Ga.
Hill, James	Miller	"
Holley, T. J.	Superintendent in Factory	"
Perry, Thomas A.	Mechanic	S. C.
Sellers, H.	Mechanic	"
Sharp, Jesse	Blacksmith	N. C.
Thornton, H.	Millwright	Ga.

Maxey Brooks, builder of Brooks' Mill, predecessor mill of Troup Factory, still lived at Troup Factory. His occupation was millwright and he had \$12,000. of real estate. His age was given as 59 and the age of his wife, Lucy Thornton Brooks, 39.

The children of Maxey and Lucy Thornton Brooks listed in the census were: Emiline, 19; Rodum M., 17, a millwright; Robert H., 15, a farmer; James M., 14; Thomas S., 11; Louisa A. J., 9; Rebecca A., 7; Lazarus B., 8 and "Babe" aged one month.

H. Thornton, millwright, probably was a brother of Mrs. Lucy Thornton Brooks. The Thornton family were near neighbors of Maxey Brooks. Thornton was 44, with \$300.00 real estate, born in Georgia. Matilda Thornton, 40, his wife, was born in Georgia and their two sons, Franklin, 19 and John, 15 were farmers. There were six other children. Also listed in the household were Edmund Crosby, machinist, and wife Amanda Crosby.

The following persons with occupation of "factory hand" were listed in the 1850 census of Troup Factory:

Name	Age	Born	Name	Age	Born
Buckhannon, B. B.	22	Ga.	Jones, James	16	"
Culberson, James	19	"	Johnson, Auguston	17	"
Darrah, William	50	N. Y.	Smith, Green W.	16	"
Hill, Aaron	23	Ga.	Smith, James J.	19	"
Hill, Berry F.	16	"	Smith, Lane	22	"
Hill, Elijah	21	"	Welborn, James	18	"
Hill, William	19	"			

There were probably other workers in the factory whose occupation is not given. Also, it is likely that women, girls and boys were working in the factory to some extent, a trend more marked in the 1860 census, ten years later, when whole families are shown as "cotton operatives" and "factory operatives."

#### Statistics and Honors

White's *Statistics of Georgia*, 1849, gives the capitalization of Troup Factory as \$42,000. and the owners as Robertson, Leslie & Co. The mill then had 1,600 spindles of spinning machinery and 65 operatives, "all whites." The production of Osnaburgs was 900 yards per day, with 100 bunches or hanks of yarn produced each day.

An Agricultural Fair was held at Stone Mountain, Georgia, in August, 1848. The *Southern Cultivator* for September, 1848, stated: "Several Cotton Mills sent samples of cloth and yarn, all of which were excellent goods. No one doubts the success of this branch of home industry."

In the October, 1848 issue of *Southern Cultivator* the winners of premiums and prizes were published. Under "Manufactures," the mills with notable "samples" are listed:

To Troup Factory, for best Osnaburgs .....	Honor
To Athens Factory, for best Thread and Ticking .....	Honor
To Augusta Factory, for best Shirting .....	Honor
To Princeton Factory, for new specimens of Stripes and improvement in Dyes .....	Honor



White, in his *Statistics*, says that Troup Factory "took the first honor for Osnaburgs" at the Agricultural Fair and comments on the market for Troup Factory products:

The goods are sold principally in the adjoining counties, and a considerable quantity sent to Philadelphia, Charleston, Savannah, Mobile and New Orleans. The orders for the goods amount to double the quantity made.

William A. Redd & Company, the agents for Troup Factory, found Troup Factory a valuable account. Goods sent to the port cities were for export through commission merchants there.

The paternalistic attitude of Robertson, Leslie & Company is evident in another of White's comments:

Great attention is paid to the character of the operatives, and none are received but those having testimonials of good and industrious habits. The company are about to erect a building for a church and Sunday school.

No ardent spirits [strong distilled liquors, as whisky] are allowed on the premises.

"Woolen goods will be made this year [1849]," White stated. He lists the industry of Troup County that year as "10 flour mills, 14 grist mills, 11 saw mills and 2 wool carding machines." It is evident that Troup Factory had installed wool carding equipment. While White does not say where the second wool carding machine was located, it would have been at Robertson Woolen Mill.

### Products and Prices

"Osnaburgs" originally meant a kind of coarse linen, made in Osnaburg, Germany but developed in the United States as a stout, coarse cotton fabric. It was useful for slave clothing and was manufactured at Troup Factory for many years. The product was sometimes called "nigger cloth," as was "linsey-woolsey," a coarse cloth of cotton and wool mixed, used for clothing. Osnaburgs were made into work clothing, sackings, bagging and other general purpose articles. Troup Factory produced "bats" of cotton and cotton and wool mixed for quilts, as well as cotton batting for mattresses. Yarns were made in "bunches" or hanks.

In the fall of 1846, new crop cotton sold on the Savannah and Columbus markets at 7½¢ to 8¼¢ lb. Principal sales were at 8¢ for middling fair grade in square bales. The "square" packaging was preferred to the rope tied round bales of about 400 lbs. each of ginned cotton usually offered. Steel cotton ties and buckles for cotton bales did not come into use until the late 1850's.

Cotton Osnaburgs, such as the product of Troup Factory, sold in Savannah and other Southern markets for 8½¢ to 10½¢ per yard. In March, 1852, the prices were in the range of 8¢ to 10¢ per yard, and cotton was selling, middling fair about 7⅞¢, fair to fully fair 8⅛¢ to 8¼¢, ordinary to good ordinary, 6½¢ to 7¼¢ and middling to good middling 7½¢ to 7¾¢ lb.

Some of the cotton for Troup Factory was bought at the mill after it was ginned and hauled there by the plantation and farm producers. Much of it was bought in LaGrange, a market town, cotton warehousing and railroad shipping point for Troup Factory products.

The fortunes of Troup Factory and its people were tied to the cotton market. There were years of "peaks and valleys" in their prosperity. Such a tendency persists in the industry to this day!

### Prepared for Yankees

During the Civil War, Troup Factory produced goods for the Confederacy and home consumption. After the Battle of West Point, Georgia, on April 16, 1865 in which Fort Tyler fell, a week after General Lee had surrendered at Appomattox, the victorious Union cavalymen of General Wilson headed towards LaGrange. Columbus had been captured by them on the same date and there occurred much burning of cotton and manufactories in that Chattahoochee River city.

It was feared that some of the cavalymen would visit Troup Factory on their way to rendezvous at Macon, Georgia. In their haste, however, they left LaGrange for Greenville in Meriwether County and the rather remote Troup Factory community was undisturbed.

The people of Troup Factory were prepared for the Yankees, had they come. Goods, supplies, cotton and vital machinery were removed from the factory and hidden in the swamps of Flat Shoals Creek.

During the Yankee raid at LaGrange, the express office was looted. A shipment of loom pickers made of rawhide was broken open and "scattered among the rabble and negroes." In the *LaGrange Reporter* for May 6, 1865, Thomas Leslie, Agent for Robertson, Leslie & Company, offered a reward of \$100.00 for the return of the loom pickers. He stated they could be of no use to anyone but the factory.

In the same issue, Robertson, Leslie & Company announced wool carding at Troup Factory. Owing to the uncertainty of the currency, they advised that they must fall back upon the old rule of "tolling"

the wool, unless they were paid in specie, or its equivalent in provisions. Their charge for carding was 10¢ per pound, "and owners of the wool must furnish the oil or be charged extra."

#### **Mills Built After the Civil War**

In 1866, cotton factories were built at the sites of grist mills on the Chattahoochee River near West Point, Georgia. These were the Alabama & Georgia Manufacturing Company, at River View, Alabama, and the Chattahoochee Mill, Langdale, Alabama.

Chattahoochee Mill was organized as West Point Manufacturing Company in 1880. It is now Langdale Mill. The Alabama & Georgia company finally became Riverdale Mill. The mills are now part of West Point-Pepperell, Inc. West Point Manufacturing Company merged with Pepperell Manufacturing Company in 1965.

Also in 1866, a cotton factory was built on the Wehadkee Creek near Roanoke, Alabama, called the Rock Mills Factory. T. J. Holley, who began as superintendent in the Troup Factory in 1850, or earlier, left the Troup Factory and became a principal stockholder in the Rock Mills Factory, now known as Wehadkee Yarn Mills.

#### **Troup Factory Osnaburgs in 1868**

Frost, Hall & Company, whose large plantation supply house was located on the north side of the public square in LaGrange, sold Troup Factory products. An invoice dated November 17, 1868 to the Allen Richardson plantation at White Sulphur Springs, Meriwether County, shows sale of 65 yards of Osnaburgs for \$14.60, or approximately 22½¢ per yard.

#### **New Management at Robertson Woolen Mill**

Troup Factory's neighbor, the Robertson Woolen Mill, survived the Civil War, but was under new management in 1869. There appeared in the *LaGrange Reporter* during January and February, 1869 an advertisement or "card" of the new proprietor, John W. McGee:

##### *Wool Carding*

The subscriber would respectfully announce that the old and well-known Robertson Wool Factory, situated near O'Neal Mills, is now in operation under his proprietorship.

Tolls will be taken in kind or in currency. Packages properly marked, left at Evans & Ragland, at LaGrange, will receive prompt attention.

I have in charge of the factory, Mr. William Gilbert, a number one Wool Carder.

How long Robertson Wool Factory continued in operation is not known. Older people recall talk about it and knew where it was on Flat Shoals Creek many years ago. The exact site is difficult to determine now.

#### **"Factory Boy's" Troup Factory in 1869**

It is to the everlasting credit of the newspapers of the area during the years of Civil War and Reconstruction that they published much to bolster the morale of the people. When manufacturing enterprises, such as a cotton factory, wagon, carriage and buggy factories, chair and furniture factories, jug factories and other endeavors of an industrial nature came into operation, the editor or a reporter visited the places.

A timely article usually followed, written in an objective, optimistic vein. Where there were local reporters in the communities of talent and the yearning to write, the editors enlisted such persons as news gatherers and published their periodical reports and news stories about the factories, farming and farming methods, cotton and cotton gins, crops, church news, school and social activities.

At Troup Factory there was a reporter-writer who signed his articles "Factory Boy." Editorial comment on him appeared in the *LaGrange Reporter* for Friday, November 5, 1869. "Factory Boy" had written a long article about Troup Factory, entitled "Progress at Troup Factory," appearing in that issue. The editor commented:

Our readers will find a lively sketch of affairs at Troup Factory signed by 'Factory Boy,' who is what he represents, likely to be, and is now, at work in the factory. We say this to show what a determined young man can do.

'Factory Boy' writes with a terseness as do many of our college productions and he shows decided ability. He ought to be placed in a position where his talents may become better developed. No such a young man ought to be 'stripping cards.'

"We hope to hear from 'Factory Boy' again," the editor concluded. "Let him take pains with his composition, give all his spare time to the cultivation of his mind, and he will reflect credit upon himself and his parents."

"Factory Boy" began his article by noting that "As progress is a great thing, and everybody likes to hear of it, and they like to hear and know the place where things are progressing, editors more especially, please turn your attention this way."

Now, while you [*LaGrange Reporter*] are doing [articles] upon the things of progress in LaGrange, West Point and other places, do you think it anything amiss to take notice of the prospering events transpiring in our small and seemingly insignificant village?

Or is it not only *seemingly*, but *really* a place too insignificant for notice? I hope you will not think so after a little enlightenment on how things are going on here.

"Factory Boy" then commented about "one of the chief centers of attraction . . . the Troup Factory Store, which is brimful of everything nice. They have got in (and are still receiving) one of the largest, nicest stock of goods that was ever imported into a country store."

Earlier in 1869, in the issue of the *Reporter* for Friday, January 8, the editor had noted in his personal columns "Fine Smoking Tobacco" from Troup Factory. He wrote:

Our young and handsome friend, Mr. Anderson Leslie, of Troup Factory, sent us the other day samples of smoking tobacco, Lorillard's *Yacht Club* and *Latakia*, the latter cultivated and manufactured by Mr. Leslie himself at Troup Factory.

The *Latakia* is well flavored and is a pure article of Cuba Tobacco raised in Troup County.

Our friend will please accept our thanks.

"Anderson Leslie is our clerk and bookkeeper still [at the store]. Everybody in the country, I guess, knows him. Therefore it need only be added that he does his business and he does it well," said "Factory Boy."

There is one thing, too, very remarkable about the store, which is this. No oleaginous and glib-tongued clerks, for lying and description, are employed. LaGrange, please take notice—no hewing down with attempts at equivocation in the eagerness to sell. On the contrary, prices are standard and the truth is always told.

The motto is 'Live and Let Live,' with 'Quick Sales and Small Profits.' If a customer comes in he is politely told the price of any article he may wish to inspect. Then he can either buy or let it alone.

"Factory Boy" thought about the effect of the store's prosperity and offerings on LaGrange trade.

No doubt this big stock will materially curtail the flow of trade from this section into the LaGrange Market. For who is going to wear out teams transporting produce to, and goods from there, over such hills, too, as there are between here and there, when they can get the same prices for their produce here and, on the other hand, get goods equally as cheap, and if anything, better, ten miles nearer home?

The big stock is just what this section has been awaiting a long time, to save them the trouble of having to go to LaGrange.

Reckoning on the uniformity of the size of the place and population, our town, even now, surpasses LaGrange in trade and business. Farmers receive the same prices here for any produce which they may bring in to sell, as they are paid in LaGrange. The market here for all production is generally governed by that in LaGrange.

In his issue of the *LaGrange Reporter* for December 10, 1869 the editor commented on the "Imported Guns at Troup Factory Store," and referred the readers to an advertisement in another column. "We warrant they are good, as no other kind would be allowed in that market."

The advertisement featured a cut of a pistol and the following notice:

We are just receiving two dozen imported shotguns, many of them very superior. Prices ranging from \$10.00 to \$50.00. Persons wanting something of extra quality can now be supplied. Cartridges, pouches, etc., to suit. —Robertson, Leslie & Co., Troup Factory.

"Factory Boy" wrote about Troup Factory "turning off the very best goods of its kind that can be made. Any person using the goods now manufactured here and will say conscientiously that they are not the very best, can just take my pipe and tobacco for lying."

In 1860, the superintendent of Troup Factory was W. D. Pearce, age 30, from Virginia. He resided in the household of James Arp, a factory operative, also from Virginia.

"Factory Boy" said in 1869 that "Here we have Mr. Hill for our superintendent, who is a live, honorable and energetic manager. Mr. Hill, though a native Rhode Islander, and a Yankee, is no radical. He, in consequence of his superior skill, ingenuity as a mechanic and machinist, is always alive to anything having a tendency toward the improvement of the machinery for making nice and durable goods."

Farmers need not lack for wool rolls, either, for here is the place to have them made as nice as can be. Any customers coming into our town are waited upon by the most accommodating gentlemen [at the Troup Factory, where wool was brought in for carding].



To show what enterprising and energetic men we have at the head of affairs here, I will state that our Agent [Thomas Leslie], Bookkeeper [Anderson Leslie] and Superintendent [Mr. Hill] even are carrying on farms respectively to themselves.

Now don't you see they are getting along well and making money fast? — and isn't making money essential to Progress?

"To his part," the intrepid "Factory Boy" told, "Mr. Leslie made a whole bale of cotton this year, which bale only cost him about two hundred dollars or upwards! He at first concluded to store it, in hopes of the advancement of the price, so if it were possible, he might realize enough to defray the expenses incurred in the production of his crop. But I believe he has at last succumbed and sold, realizing 23¢ lb. on the sale of it."

If his bale of cotton weighed 500 lbs., Mr. Leslie received \$115.00. "Factory Boy" wrote that "He did better than most of them will do for his crop, all around. He thinks so many have gone wild on the cotton mania — so many more men have turned farmer in the production of this staple (he being one of those misled) this year over that of last, that in consequence of the large increase this year and the over flooding of the market thereby, cotton will undoubtedly decline; and of course, has somewhat saved himself by disposing of his in time, and he thinks it an example which others had better follow."

Troup Factory had at this time "a large merchant grist mill," stated by "Factory Boy" to be "in full operation, which makes as good meal and nice flour as anybody need to want." Mr. Garrett, the miller, was a Confederate veteran and "a pleasing and obliging gentleman to his customers."

How can he be otherwise, after taking the enormous swear, while in prison at Rock Island, that if he ever got out alive he would strive to get employment in a grist mill or a bakery. He wanted to get where he would be better *bred* than he was there!

The physician at Troup Factory in 1869 was Dr. Andrew Edward Beasley. He was born March 18, 1844. On July 9, 1867 he married Sarah "Sallie" Leslie, daughter of Thomas and Louisa V. Leslie. She was born May 19, 1845 and died March 27, 1928. Dr. Beasley died September 18, 1881.

Of Dr. Beasley, "Factory Boy" said:

Our little town is blessed with a nice and gentlemanly physician in the person of Dr. Andrew Beasley, of whom it need only be said that for competency, good treatment and sound judgment he is a 'chip off the old block' [his father and others of the family were physicians of Troup County].

Though there has been considerable sickness here this year, this is generally considered a very healthy locality. Only two deaths — and one of those was an infant — have occurred here in about three years.

Thomas A. Perry (1825-1890), was a foremost and industrious citizen of Troup Factory. He operated a woodshop, blacksmith shop and sawmill. With his sons he operated a tanyard. His establishments were on Perry Creek, near and on the west of Flat Shoals Creek. The Troup Factory Store, of Robertson, Leslie & Company, was also on the west side of Flat Shoals Creek, where its rock foundations may still be seen.

"Factory Boy" admired Mr. Perry and said "He stands ready to welcome and accommodate his customers in the way of wood or iron work and sawing," but it was in another endeavor that Mr. Perry caught his imagination and made his pen fly. He spoke of "the part which he acts and the position which he fills in our midst."

We might as well try to write a graphic biography of General Grant [Ulysses S. Grant] without overtoning his talented jockeyisms and the tenacity with which he swung to cows' tails in days of yore; to propel a steamboat without steam, or ship without sails, as to attempt a description of happiness here [in Troup Factory] and not mention Mr. Perry's name.

This personage is an indispensable link of the chain of progress in our construction here. He is the Justice of Peace of the district [Rough Edge District].

Perched upon the throne of his magistracy, with codes of different kinds strewn promiscuously around, with his specs [spectacles] satisfactorily adjusted upon that olfactory protuberance for their reception, thus we find him occasionally, disposing of his cases of litigation and contentions with an eye single to justice and in a manner which the evidence demands.

Thus seated, it may be said, with safety and without provocation, that he knows no man but law and justice, so far is he to anything which savors of the allurements of partiality.

Speaking generally of the Troup Factory people, "Factory Boy" wrote "For virtue and simplicity, industrious and talented young men, beautiful and charming lasses, noble sires and exemplary dames, the society of Troup Factory, and vicinity, is unsurpassed and beyond emulation."

To show the fraternal affection which is paramount here, we have a Primitive and Missionary Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Universalist, Episcopalian and Roman Catholic Churches, all in one. Any minister of the above denominations is at liberty to preach where all go and seem very well satisfied with the discourse.

Two acres of land were given by Maxey Brooks for a Troup Factory church, of his "own free will and accord for the purpose of prompting good morals in the community," in a deed recorded December 8, 1849. The land was deeded to Walker Dunson, Thomas Hardy and Thomas Leslie, trustees, and their successors in office, for the purpose of building "a Universalist meeting house on," and was a fraction of Land Lot No. 238 in Third District, Troup County.

"I also give and grant in aid of the above mentioned purpose," Maxey Brooks subscribed, "the privilege of using the nearest spring on [Land Lot] No. 239, with this proviso; if the church should be discontinued, the aforesaid lot of land and the water privilege to revert to the donor, or to his heirs or representatives at law."

The dimensions of the property were: "Beginning at a stake on the road leading from the Troup Factory to Hamilton, and running nearly north 125 yards, thence west 78 yards, thence south 125 yards and thence east 78 yards, to the beginning corner, containing two acres, more or less."

The church and schoolhouse building erected by Robertson, Leslie & Company for the use of the Troup Factory operatives and other citizens of the community, was used by all faiths. It was located at the top of the hill on the east side of Flat Shoals Creek, on the right of the present highway, and near the Troup Factory Cemetery now there.

We also have a Masonic Lodge here, the members of which meet once a month. I am no Mason [Factory Boy stated] but judging from the rapid increase of the fraternity in the past two years, I conclude there must be some good in that institution.

"Factory Boy" noted that Troup Factory had no hotel "for the accommodation of travelers and visitors, but we expect to have one by the time the iron horse [locomotive] comes tearing, screeching and puffing through our little town on the [rail] road to be built from West Point to Thomaston or Barnesville [never built]."

For many years, Meriwether County had been famous for its springs, Warm Springs, White Sulphur Springs and Chalybeate Springs, developed as gathering places for plantation and Southern society in the summers, and as a respite for invalids seeking the medicinal qualities of the waters for health reasons. "Factory Boy" was not beyond visualizing something of the kind happening at Troup Factory:

Then, too, some lazy fellow having nothing else to do but stroll around, may, peradventure, along one of his perambulations, stumble upon a Chalybeate Spring somewhere in the suburbs which has not yet been discovered. We will then send for Mr. Kener to come and build a house round it with a cupola on top, as he is an adept from practice; up then will go the hotel, in will come the visitors and invalids with their big trunks and an untold number of servants. Houses will spring up, as it were, spontaneously, business will increase and indeed, what a thriving town we will have.

"One thing we lack here and must have is a good bridge," wrote "Factory Boy." There were two bridges at Troup Factory, one over Perry Creek and the larger over Flat Shoals Creek.

The one we have here is an old, dilapidated structure [covered, wooden bridge] which will soon go up if a freshet don't come along and carry it down. We understand that we are to have one soon, if the money can be spared.

I'll wager a ginger cake against a bottle of sugar [water] that if it was a negro school house to be built the money would be forthcoming and the house put up forthwith.

"Factory Boy's" long article was dated at Troup Factory, Ga., October 26, 1869. He concluded with a descriptive and optimistic note:

The sharp ring of the anvil, the grating sound of the saw, the melodious hum of machinery, is the principal din of music here every day.

Now who is there to say that progress is not on the move, with an upward tendency, at Troup Factory?

#### Pitching a Hard Head

An incident happened near Troup Factory about which a correspondent, "G. H.," wrote the editor of the *LaGrange Reporter* on August 10, 1869. The "incredulous" but "positively true" story appeared in the issue of August 27, 1869. "G. H." opined that if the "hero" had been one of the Grant [President Ulysses S. Grant] family, or some "illustrious prince," the news would have reached "almost the entire world . . . in a very short space of time, but as it was only a pupil of Mr. Hogg's school no notice has been taken of it whatever."

A young man was riding a very skittish horse with great celerity up the road which passes by the school room and as the horse reached the place where he was usually accustomed to turn in toward the school house he made a sudden and very quick turn, unhorsing his rider and pitching him head-foremost, and with a great force against a large oak tree which was

standing near the road. The poor tree *barked* when our hero's head struck against it and then gave up the ghost.

This is a certain fact, for the tree from the moment ceased to live. It is there now though only a decaying trunk with leafless branches.

I don't think any person could kill a full grown oak at a single butt, at least there are not many, I presume, who are willing to try it. Our hero, I guess would be loath to try it the second time. He was very badly hurt but he now has entirely recovered and no doubt could make a right good butt again.

It did not kill him, but he killed the tree, as anyone passing the Pleasant Grove Church can see for themselves.

#### Ads and Appeals to the Ladies

Troup Factory ads were inserted in the newspapers of the area from time to time. The factory was diversified in that it had carding, spinning, weaving and dyeing departments for processing of cotton and wool fibers, and operated a grist mill for corn and wheat products. Usually the advertisements called attention to some facet of the plant, seasonally appealing, or when it needed business. They were mostly in a personal, conversational vein.

The grist milling department, in an advertisement appearing in the *LaGrange Reporter* for January 29, 1870 pointed out to their patrons, "especially farmers," the necessity for better protection to their grains when sent to the mill. It was customary then for a farmer, his son or hired hand, to load a wagon or balance a couple of sacks of grain on a horse and head to the mill when the meal or flour supply ran low at home.

The "Old Miller," who signed the advertisement, stated that "Very few have a cover on wagons, or carts, or a blanket or oilcloth to protect a bag on horseback." He advised that such protection "would cost but a trifle and both the old grain and the flour would be kept dry and clean. It is horrid to receive grain and return proceeds in wet, dirty sacks."

Although it was "respectfully submitted," the "Old Miller" got another pet "peeve" off his chest:

Don't send your grain in old guano sacks that have simply been rinsed a few times in cold water. They ought to be boiled daily for six months and saturated in cologne six more before flour is put in them.

Many of the commercial fertilizers of the era were frankly experimental in nature and even "gyms." Some were sacked bird droppings from islands off South America! The "Old Miller" knew his subject when he told his patrons "Don't use them at all."

He also advised against the use of the loosely woven "old corn sacks, unfit for bags. They are too thin and leave a hairy fibre in the flour."

He put his case before the ladies:

I beg respectfully of the ladies, who ought to see to the washing department, to have the meal and flour bags well washed occasionally. Bags may be seen at mills that would make the mistress blush if asked whose they were.

The old doggerel ran thus, it was declared:

*There's nothing in the world so shocking  
As a pretty lass with a hole in her stocking!*

I deny it! A dirty mealbag with a dozen holes in it is worse. Don't get mad with me, ladies. All millers are telling the same story.

#### Ads in Textile Directories

In old directories of the cotton textile industry there are references to Troup Factory and Robertson, Leslie & Company. They are listed in the famous *Dockham's Textile Directory* for 1868-69, but without detail.

The *United States Textile Directory* for 1875 lists Troup Factory with Thomas Leslie, Agent, and N. S. Leslie, Selling Agent for Robertson, Leslie & Company. The mill was then producing 6 oz. and 8 oz. Osnaburgs, 6 oz. Checks and Stripes and Cotton Yarns, 5's to 12's.

Capital was shown as \$100,000. The equipment was 50 narrow looms, 20 cards, 2,000 spindles.

*Dockham's Textile Directory* for 1876-77, names the goods as Osnaburgs, Checks, Denims, Yarns, etc., and gives the number of spindles as 2,200.

Information from these directories, and others mentioned, is from directories in the collections of Merrimack Valley Textile Museum, North Andover, Massachusetts.



### Ellis' Store

Troup Factory products were sold in the store of David Ellis, Greenville, Meriwether County. In the *Meriwether Vindicator* for September 5, 1873 he notified his patrons he had "Just received a large lot of Troup Factory cotton plaids, checks, white and colored yarns." In 1876, Troup Factory "checks" sold for 15¢ yd. and their "stripes" sold for 14¢ yd., at the Ellis store. "Checks" of the Eagle & Phenix mill at Columbus, Georgia, were offered at 12½¢ yd.

### Troup Factory Store

An advertisement of the Troup Factory Store appeared in the *Meriwether Vindicator* for June 16, 1876. The editor mentioned that "Robertson, Leslie & Co., of Troup Factory, have a card in our advertising columns this week to which we call special attention. The well known character of these gentlemen is a guarantee that every statement in their card is true to the letter. Give them a liberal patronage."

The "card" began with an announcement in large letters: "New Advertisement — Troup Factory Store! More New Goods We Have Now and Are Constantly Receiving Them. Prices Lower and Lower, Every Day!"

We are old dealers and know that Dry Goods are lower now than when cotton was five cents.

We are selling at Rock Bottom Prices and sticking 'closer than a brother' to cash and barter trade.

Next week, and after, we want to Barter For Wheat. We want it by the bag, by the cart and by the wagon load. Let the neighbors come! Let all of Meriwether [County] come! Let all that are afar off come and bring wheat and oats and anything good for man or beast to eat and barter for cheap goods.

We keep the biggest and best assorted stock of goods in Troup County.

At Troup Factory, "Besides all these things," the message of the advertisement continued, "we are manufacturing the best Osnaburgs, Cotton Yarn, White and Colored [dyed], and the very best Plaids, Stripes, Checks and Denims made in Georgia, for men and boys and laboring women. This is a truth that our customers already know, a truth that will stand when the 'World is on Fire.'"

We think it no egotism to say we deal squarely with all mankind. Give honest weight and measure and try to keep a clear conscience.

Orders carefully filled. Will take remnants of good cotton at all times. No dog-tail wanted at any price.

### Industrial Census of Troup Factory

*The Georgia Industrial Census*, 1876-77, describes Troup Factory as "a post village" of Troup County, located "10 miles southeast of county seat, 10 miles from LaGrange." The Troup Factory then employed "100 operatives in the manufacture of Osnaburgs, checks, yarns, etc. Population 250." The following is quoted:

Beasley, A. E., physician  
Churches, Mt. Zion Baptist  
Dallis, A. T., postmaster  
Hardy, L. L., grist mill  
Hardy, L. L., Sen., general store  
Herndon, B. N., boots and shoes  
Horn, John, boots and shoes

Perry, John T., general store  
Perry, James O., general store  
Priddy, R. T., physician  
Perry, Thos. A., saw mill  
Robertson, Leslie & Co., cotton manufacturers  
and general store.  
Troup Factory Grist Mill  
Thompson, John, justice of peace

### Bartered for Wheat

Troup Factory used the barter system oftentimes to obtain wheat. In the *LaGrange Reporter* for June 28, 1877 Thomas Leslie, Agent, advertised the Troup Factory Flouring Mills:

Our mills are now in fine order. Lately bought a new bolting cloth, nice and fine. Sun [dry in the sunshine] your wheat before sending. Damp and smutty wheat never does well.

Send [your wheat] in nice clean bags, no guano or corn sacks.

At the same time, under a heading, "Wheat Wanted," Agent Leslie stated "We want to barter for 1,000 bushels of wheat. Would pay a little *Cash* on a *Hard Press*. Don't want smutty wheat."

### Troup Factory News

The *LaGrange Reporter* occasionally published a column of "Troup Factory News." In its issue of July 26, 1877 Troup Factory's "Fourth of July Celebration" was called a "huge thing! How much talk

it furnished! Those people present enjoyed the day and would not have been denied its privileges for any small amount."

Another item stated "The neighborhood is enjoying the prospect of more bread — we cannot underwrite the word plenty — since the last rains have fallen."

At the Troup Factory Church, John Lemuel Robertson (1849-1903), son of James Madison Creed Robertson, and John T. Perry, son of Thomas A. and Permelia J. Perry, conducted "Sunday School, a very interesting feature in the community. The singing is fine and the attendance is always good."

#### Confederate Veterans' Encampment

The Confederate Veterans of West Point and LaGrange, the "West Point Guards" and the "LaGrange Light Guards," encamped in the summer of 1877 at White Sulphur Springs, Meriwether County, for several days. Robertson, Leslie & Company donated to each company of veterans "a couple of tents."

#### Marbles "For All"

Many Troup Factory people enjoyed the games of marbles played by the young and the not-so-young:

Marbles! Marbles! What would Troup Factory do without marbles? To see the relish and hilarious fuss with which the game is played by the little fellows, to-wit: Leslie Dallis, Andy Beasley, Ab Dallis, Bobbie Traylor, alias Robert B., Sr., alias 'Col.,' and Doc Roberts and others, is itself an antidote to ennui.

But the conceded champion is Bobbie Traylor, and on any account he is the Prince of Marble Players.

Obviously the game was enjoyed by some of the "older boys" in the Troup Factory community, either as participants or kibitzers: Leslie Wellington Dallis (1848-1903), Dr. Andrew Edward Beasley (1844-1881), Abner Thomas Dallis (1849-1921), Robert B. Traylor, Sr. (1816-1893) and "Doc Roberts" were prominent Troup County citizens.

The correspondent at Troup Factory who sent the "Troup Factory News" to the *LaGrange Reporter* had other remarks about marbles the next week:

*Ringer Wanted.* The youthful marble-ists aforementioned desire to engage the services of a permanent ringer. Anyone wishing a situation would better apply.

#### Perry Millrace

Thomas A. Perry and his son, James O. Perry, began a notable construction and engineering project at Troup Factory in 1877. They built a millrace about 1,500 yards long on the west side of Flat Shoals Creek to bring water from the creek to drive the saws of their public cotton ginnery. The water was also used in their tanyard operations.

The Troup Factory correspondent, "Rough Edge," wrote the editor of the *Reporter* about the Perry millrace. His account appeared in the issue of November 1, 1877. With eloquence he said, "The race where it crosses the bed of their stream [Perry Creek] is about twenty feet high and looks like the ghost of the North & South Rail Road, 'the loved and lost Lenore.'"

As the millrace crossed the Perry Creek, it was an elevated structure or viaduct for carrying the water and reminded "Rough Edge" of a railroad trestle. He spoke of the "ghost" of the North & South Rail Road, which was building from Columbus, Georgia to Rome, Georgia. The *Columbus Enquirer* for July 18, 1878 carried a notice about progress on the road:

The road has been graded and prepared for the laying of ties and rails to Hamilton [Harris County]. Forty hands are employed and they are working rapidly. The iron, account of some accident at the Chattanooga Mills, has been delayed, but will be here in seven or eight days. Iron [rail] has been laid the distance of one quarter mile from Kingsboro.

This was the second fond dream that one day a railroad would reach Troup Factory, but it was not to be, thus the "loved and lost Lenore."

Bringing the water around the hills of the Troup Factory terrain, in a millrace partly a clay lined ditch, partly rock walled and partly a trough of timbers, was a feat about which "Rough Edge" admiringly said:

These gentlemen [the Perrys] have employed considerable energy and enterprise, having surmounted many natural obstructions in the stern beds of granite that slumber in these native hills.

Their work is not yet complete, but enough to mingle the music of its wheels with the busy hum of the cotton factory close by; and to the ear of the passerby the stir and whirl of machinery is both pleasing and animating.

### Troup Factory After 31 Years

By 1878, James Madison Creed Robertson and Thomas Leslie had been partners, proprietors and owners of Troup Factory since 1847, or 31 years. Mr. Robertson was born in 1809 and Mr. Leslie in 1812. In 1878, "owing to the advanced age and failing health of the proprietors and owners of the Troup Factory," the partners decided to "sell out and retire from the business."

In their signed advertisement, "Troup Factory for Sale," dated June 5, 1878 at Troup Factory, Georgia, which appeared in issues of the newspapers of LaGrange, Columbus and possibly other towns of the area, the partners gave about as complete a description of Troup Factory as has been found.



TROUP FACTORY — Superintendent Robert Southwell White is pictured on the gangplank. From SOUTHERN VIEWS, Corless Collection.

The Troup Factory was ten miles southeast of LaGrange, on Flat Shoals Creek. The mill building, a wooden structure, "strong and well built," four stories high, was 76 feet long x 46 feet wide.

Troup Factory was then "running 1,650 spindles." In addition, there was older and earlier equipment consisting of 500 "mule" spindles "not at work at present."

#### "Mule" Spindles for Spinning

Troup Factory and other early cotton mills relied for years on "mule" spindles for spinning their yarns. In its day, "mule" spinning was a great advance in textile manufacturing. In 1878, it was out-of-date, inefficient and superseded.

"Modern" equipment went into Troup Factory when it began operations in 1847 and the "mule" spinning was installed. In textile manufacturing history, Richard Arkwright, the English inventor of the spinning machine, obtained his first patent for spinning with rollers in 1769. His "water-frame" twisted the cotton roving into a thread called "water-twist" because of the water power used in turning his machine.



The "water-frame" lacked the ability to make thread as strong as desired. It remained for James Hargreaves to invent a spinning machine known as the "spinning jenny," for multiple spinning of threads. When the "spinning jenny" was used with the Arkwright spinning frame, a product was turned out as fine and as strong as needed for cotton cloth.

Another textile pioneer, a weaver named Compton, successfully combined the "water-frame" and "spinning jenny" into a new machine called the "mule."

#### **Troup Factory Looms and Products**

Troup Factory, according to the Robertson and Leslie ad in 1878, had "50 looms on [manufacturing] Osnaburgs, stripes, checks, denims and kerseys." Yarns, cotton and woolen, were spun for sale and the factory operated a dye plant for "dyeing part of them various colors."

The manufacturer's name of the looms was not given, but they were probably made by Lowell Machine Shops, of Lowell, Massachusetts, early builders of cotton carding, spinning, weaving and finishing machinery used in a cotton factory. Loom width was 36 inches.

Osnaburgs were manufactured in patterns of stripes and checks. Denims were fabrics derived in name from serge of Nimes, France, the serge originally a twilled worsted fabric used for suits, coats and dresses. As made by Troup Factory, denim was a coarse cotton drilling [fabric having a diagonal weave] used for overalls, work clothes and other things, including carpeting.

Dallas & Gray, merchants of LaGrange, were agents for Troup Factory products in 1879, and advertised in the *LaGrange Reporter* "New Troup Factory Carpets." They also advised their patrons to "Get colored Knittings [knitting yarns] at Troup Factory" in 1879.

Kerseys were cloths derived in name from Kersey, a village of Suffolk, England, where originally was woven a kind of woolen cloth, usually coarse and ribbed. Troup Factory kerseys were made into trousers, coats and perhaps other garments.

Additional facilities of Troup Factory were named as "an excellent Press House [cotton cloth baling press and waste baling room], Dye House, Boiler and Dry Rooms [for dyed yarns]."

Troup Factory was "turning out from 50,000 to 60,000 yards of cloth monthly," according to the advertisement. Its machines were water power driven, and it was noted that "all the waterwheels [taking the fall of the water for power] are patent iron and in good order."

#### **Troup Factory Village**

On the hillside above the factory, across the road from the Troup Factory village proper, were "three or four nice cottage residences for proprietors and agents [of the factory]." Situated on the hillside where the employees lived were "27 good, two room houses for operatives, all near and convenient with good springs and wells convenient to all."

"Indeed," the advertisement stated, "the whole premises . . . are in good repair and well arranged for comfort. Place healthy, well shaded, and handsome, with a church on premises and others near; also post office and tri-weekly mail."

#### **Grist and Flour Mills**

Troup Factory had been in the grist mill business since its beginning as Brooks' Mill, continued profitably since 1847 by Robertson, Leslie & Company. "Very near to the factory, in twenty feet [of it], stands a two story flouring mill, with good runners and machinery, bolting cloths, &c." The flouring mill was equipped with a bolter, a machine with sliding runners and bolting cloths used to sift or "bolt" flour and meal. Bran was separated from the flour by the action of the bolter, producing "fine" flour. Corn meal was coarsely ground and generally not bolted.

Products of Troup Factory grist milling were well known to generations of Troup County and Meriwether County patrons, expressed in the statement, "The mill has a good run of custom, and the proceeds of the grain sold [at the mill door or loading platform] without hauling off [to other market]."

#### **Land, Cotton, Store and Inventory**

"The whole premises" of Troup Factory then contained "about 1,100 acres of land. Much of it is good farming land. At least 500 acres of it should be in cotton and corn for the use of the place [i.e., factory consumption and sale]. Perhaps half of the lands are in [hard] woods and partly in pine. All our fire-works [boiler, fireplaces and stoves for heating various buildings], use pine entirely and the quantity will be everlasting."

Baled cotton for Troup Factory was stored on the premises, in a warehouse, and in warehouses of LaGrange and Chipley merchants. "We usually have on hand 100 to 300 bales of cotton (now 150)," it was stated.

At the Troup Factory Store, "a splendid rock store [building] 60 feet long by 40 feet wide," Robertson, Leslie & Company carried a "stock of goods . . . stock generally \$7,000. to \$10,000., now perhaps \$8,000. Annual sales \$20,000. to \$25,000."

In storage at the factory was a stock of manufactured goods. "All manufactured goods on hand and in the hands of agents, we propose to dispose of ourselves, but would make a heavy reduction on them [i.e., make a generous discount] and close the whole out if so desired. That stock is perhaps \$20,000."

The North & South Rail Road, a narrow gauge line, was still under construction. It was mentioned:

The North & South Rail Road, which will be finished from Columbus to Rome, runs within  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile of the mills and will add several thousand dollars to the value.

Mr. Robertson, 69, and Mr. Leslie, 66, stated "To persons wishing such an estate, who are younger men, this is a rare chance. Everything is in order — all going and all ready. No waiting to build everything, say, one to three years. No loss of interest on capital and risk of fire or flood. The day possession is given you commence business and profits."

The business is pleasant, having now a full run of custom which consumes the proceeds as fast as manufactured. We retire from the business solely for the reasons already stated.

The Troup Factory property, including "all the tools, wagons and eight mules," for "possession immediately, or at any time within the next six months," was offered for a price of \$80,000. Terms were stated to be "one half cash, and one, two, three and four years credit on the balance at seven per cent per annum."

The property cost us largely over that amount and will pay a fine profit on the investment if well managed. Persons, or a company desiring such property will, of course, examine it — the titles, location, and its future chances of success.

Our Mr. Leslie is and will be on the place to exhibit and explain what is necessary to know.

To capitalists within fifty miles around the description is unnecessary. Those living farther may wish a formal description of the property in this notice.

In reference to the stock of cotton on hand, 150 bales, it was specified that "The cotton must be paid for in net cash." Terms for the "stock of dry goods in [Troup Factory] Store," were "half cash, and other half in six and twelve months."

"Written communications will be kept strictly private, if so desired," Mr. Robertson and Mr. Leslie stated. The notice of "Troup Factory for Sale" appeared in the newspapers for perhaps two months. Apparently no acceptable bidder came forward, so Troup Factory continued under the same management.

#### A Dog Law Needed

Mr. Leslie advertised in the *LaGrange Reporter* for August 22, 1878 that "Troup Factory wants Wool Carding." The supply must have been "short," for he said:

This is the last time we will advertise 'Wool Carding' unless a dog law is passed.

There are 6,000 dogs in Troup County and most of them are curs of low degree, and all badly fed.

What chance do the sheep have to live and make wool?

#### "Factory Boy" Again

"Factory Boy" wrote to the editor of the *LaGrange Reporter* and some of the news of the Troup Factory community appeared in the issue of September 30, 1878. Saying "Marriage is honorable to all," he told how "A young lady eluded her parents, met her lover, and they married last Wednesday night near the [Factory] church at this place. The young lady's father heard of his daughter's marriage soon after it took place, and with profound philosophy exclaimed that 'He could not help it now.'"

One of our citizens who is a great believer in sciolism [superficial knowledge] has just given your correspondent a rather strange idea, that the introduction of guano is the cause of the recent tornadoes, and he can demonstrate the fact to any unbiased mind. (Send out your scientist, he is getting too deep for this writer).

We ventured to impose the following question: 'Mr. B., how can the loss of lives be prevented in the paths of these terrible winds?' In answer he said that the only effectual way, in his

knowledge, was to make observations with a *spyglass* and when danger is imminent, flee to a hole in the ground.

Said I, 'We understand you so far, but suppose the threatening clouds should come at night — what about the *spyglass* then?'

In deep meditation and profound silence, he 'passed.'

#### Letterheads of 1878

Letterheads of Robertson, Leslie & Company, in 1878, advertised themselves to be "Merchants and Manufacturers of Heavy Cotton Checks and Stripes, White and Colored Cotton Yarn, Heavy and Light Osnaburgs, Mattresses, &c. &c." The names of the partners, J. M. C. Robertson and T. Leslie, appeared at upper left and right hand corners, respectively.

John Lemuel Robertson, son of James Madison Creed Robertson, lived at Troup Factory in 1878. He addressed his father, "Dear Pa," on October 14, in a note concerning the leasing of the Elisha Kendall place and land of the Robertson homeplace "on shares" for the coming year.

"All well with us," the son wrote. "Wish you'd send my couch when your wagon comes down. You will have bags [in the wagon] and it can rest on them."

#### Troup Factory Declines

Although ably managed during the Panic of 1873 and subsequent years of the Grant administration, Troup Factory began to decline. The unsuccessful attempt to sell it in 1878 was of concern to the aging partners, Robertson and Leslie. A great capital outlay was necessary if they replaced the worn machinery. Annual interest, too heavy for much reduction to be made in their indebtedness, dimmed the future prospects of the enterprise.

On Thursday, March 3, 1881 there appeared in the *LaGrange Reporter* confirmation of what many had heard and feared.

A rumor was in circulation last week to the effect that the proprietors of Troup Factory had failed. The factory has been in successful operation 35 years and the report was quite a surprise.

Messrs. Robertson, Leslie & Co., the proprietors, have called for a meeting of the creditors, nearly all of whom live in this section. The liabilities of the firm are about \$50,000., with assets of an available nature, together with cash on hand amounting to \$20,000., the factory grain mill, and eleven hundred acres of land. It is the opinion of many that at a fair evaluation this will meet all indebtedness.

Attesting to the high financial stability of the proprietors, the article stated that "Mr. Thomas Leslie, of this county, and Mr. J. M. C. Robertson, of Meriwether County, comprise the firm, and have been partners for nearly forty years. Their paper [note and credit obligations] has always been among the best until recently."

Ten years ago, one half interest in the above mill and property was owned by the Beemans [David E. Beeman and Isaac C. Beeman] formerly well known in this section.

For this interest, \$23,000. was paid and very soon afterwards, \$17,000. in improvements were made by adding new machinery and otherwise improving the property.

There was also a total loss of \$5,000. by subscription to the North & South narrow gauge railroad.

The panic of 1873 caused considerable loss, and since that time the annual interest has been too heavy for much reduction to be made on their indebtedness.

"The factory is still running," the article concluded, "and a meeting of the creditors will be held today, when matters will be quietly adjusted, as we are confident they will."

"A meeting has been held by the creditors of Messrs. Robertson, Leslie & Co., proprietors of Troup Factory," the *Reporter* stated in its issue of March 10, 1881, "and as we predicted last week, matters have been quietly adjusted. The liabilities amounted to \$54,000. They had on hand \$25,000. cash assets, besides the factory, grain mill, lands, etc., which at a fair evaluation was found adequate to pay every dollar of indebtedness. The factory will be under the management of a new company."

In Meriwether County, the *Vindicator* for Friday, March 11, 1881 carried an article about the "Failure at Troup Factory," stating "The recent failure of Messrs. Robertson and Leslie, the owners of Troup Factory, startled our people like a clap of thunder from a clear sky. The proprietors were partners in Greenville as merchants over forty years ago and have always been regarded as the best men in the country."

Somewhere about 1847 they purchased the Brooks' Mill property in Troup County and erected a cotton factory upon its site. Their enterprise prospered and was the best paying property in the state, Mr. Leslie personally superintending its operation.



Fortunately, although nearly in the line of march of the Wilson's cavalry raid in 1865, the factory escaped destruction, the party sent to burn it being told it had already been destroyed, and were thus turned back before reaching their destination.

After the war, being free from debt, about twenty thousand dollars of new and improved machinery was added, and the demand for the goods manufactured far exceeded the ability to supply them.

The health of both partners failing, each of them being about 70 years of age, they were unable to give that close attention to the business that had marked their earlier partnership. The panic of 1873 brought on indebtedness, which, although the business continued profitable, increased with late years.

Mr. Leslie becoming feebler through severe illness, Mr. Robertson, before Christmas [1880] went to the factory and took stock and endeavored to find out the liabilities of the partnership. Discovering that the debts amounted to \$54,000., and he and Mr. Leslie not being able to look after the business, they concluded to call in the creditors and give up the property. The proposition was gladly acceded to, as the property surrendered is largely in excess of the debts.

The *Vindicator*, whose editor, W. T. Revill, was a close personal friend of the partners, opined that "Were Messrs. Robertson and Leslie thirty years younger they would have no difficulty in keeping their property and paying up every dollar they owed. But being old, they preferred settling the matter without the annoyances of probable lawsuits. The property cost about one hundred thousand dollars and is richly worth every dollar the firm put into it."

Instead of compromising their debts, as is the usual custom, for fifty cents on the dollar, these gentlemen have given up a valuable property double the amount of their indebtedness.

What a striking example of genuine honor and integrity!

Creditors of Troup Factory were "so astonished at the noble and generous action" of Mr. Robertson and Mr. Leslie that they "voluntarily presented them with five thousand dollars stock in the new company."

Those who have known Messrs. Robertson and Leslie for half a century never doubted their honor and integrity and their recent conduct shows that the high confidence was not misplaced. The credit of the firm stood high in the market and the voluntary surrender was made only to get rid of an honest indebtedness while the principals were alive.

The creditors, the largest of whom live in Troup County, have formed a joint stock company and the factory will continue to run as usual.

#### The New Troup Factory

An application for incorporation of the Troup Factory "new company" was made to the Superior Court of Troup County, by citizens of Troup and Meriwether counties, who "associated themselves together and desire an order of incorporation declaring them a body corporate under the corporate name of Troup Factory for the term of twenty years."

It was stated that the object of "said association and the business to be carried on under said name" was the manufacture of cotton yarns, woolen goods, threads, yarns, etc. Capital of \$46,500. was "to be employed and entirely paid in for carrying out the object of said association," with the privilege of increasing capital to \$60,000., if desired. The principal place of doing business was to be Troup County, Georgia.

Ferrell & Longley, of LaGrange, were attorneys for petitioners and published the necessary "true extract" from the Minutes of Troup Superior Court in the *LaGrange Reporter* for March 31, 1881.

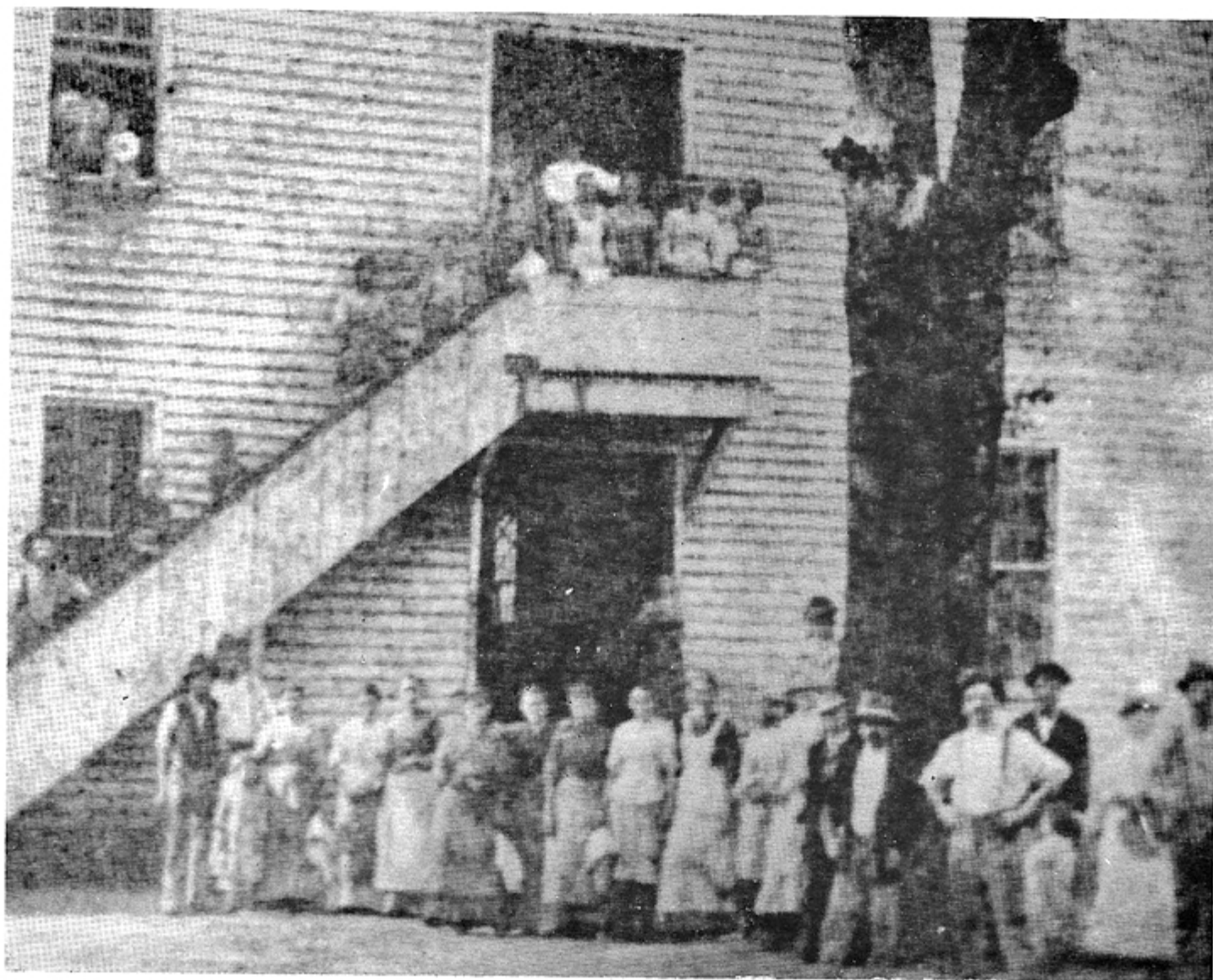
The petitioners desired "corporate authority to govern themselves by such rules and by-laws as may be proper — with power to purchase, hold and enjoy both real and personal property."

An order was petitioned to be granted by the court "declaring them, and their successors, a body corporate under said name of Troup Factory, with all the powers necessary for the purpose of their organization."

Petitioners from Troup County were:

Cary & Butler	Herndon, B. H.	Smith, Mary
Cleveland, Sarah C. C.	Huntley, Sr., W. H.	Smith, S. P.
Dallis, Sr., H. W.	LaGrange Banking & Trust Co., The	Smith, Thomas W.
Davidson, Allen	Leslie, Thomas	Swanson, S. W.
Farrow, Thomas	Loyd, James	Truitt, J. M.
Ferrell, B. C.	Perry, J. O.	White, Nannie
Glanton, T. O.		White, Robert

There were only three petitioners from Meriwether County: John W. Park, J. M. C. Robertson and J. W. Stinson.



TROUP FACTORY OPERATIVES — Posed in front of the factory. Superintendent White in hat and vest at far left. From SOUTHERN VIEWS, Corless Collection.

### Cotton and Meat

John Lemuel Robertson, son of James M. C. Robertson, was living at LaGrange in 1882. He wrote his father, "Dear Pa," from the LaGrange office of Troup Factory on February 10, 1882:

Your cotton weighed 540-565-1105 lbs. at  $10\frac{1}{2}\text{¢}$ , \$116.02. I could not get more than  $10\frac{1}{2}\text{¢}$  and I did not see the use of storing it when you need the money for other uses.

Cotton has been declining for some days and yesterday was only worth  $11\frac{3}{4}\text{¢}$  in New York, a clear drop of  $\frac{1}{4}\text{¢}$ . To know what it will do hereafter is an impossibility — and to take the chances as you did last year & put cotton in warehouse, with expenses daily growing against it, is poor policy when you have a use for the money invested in it.



TROUP FACTORY STORE AND COMMISSARY  
Operated by Robertson, Leslie & Co. A rock building described in 1878 as being 60 feet by 40 feet. Ruins of the building may still be seen on the west side of Flat Shoals Creek. The store was at the approach of the first of two covered bridges, "double bridges" crossing Perry Creek and Flat Shoals Creek at Troup Factory. Corless Collection.

Such is my idea. If hereafter you do not think with me you can order positively what you want done and I will follow your order.

I bought [three] plowstock at \$1.65 = \$4.95. Send you back \$111.07.

The general store, or commissary, at Troup Factory was a part of the company's operations. Meats were kept on hand for sale to the factory workers, along with many other items of groceries and dry goods. Mr. Robertson said:

Meat here is worth  $10\frac{1}{2}\text{¢}$  lb. They say worth that in Atlanta. One party says he would shade that price in order to effect a sale today — that I don't know, but think very probable.

On rising market, this place is about as good as Atlanta. On falling market, not so good. Atlanta pulsates with western market more closely and meat has been advancing for several days.

It is said that it costs 10¼¢ to lay it down [deliver at destination] here now. Where these men have some stocks bought at lower prices they will not ask as much and require full prices.

"Mary [his wife] and children are well," he wrote. "We have been trying to do a little gardening — have sowed the smaller seed. Irish potatoes are worth here 70¢ a peck. If you have any sweet potatoes to spare, send me a few to eat when you send up again. I have reserved a good spot to raise them this year.

"I wish you and Ma would drive over [from Greenville] some Friday & spend Saturday & Sunday with us. Ma's butter comes in good time. We were just out & it is scarce at this time. Come over as soon as you can and see how we are situated — the place & how fixed."

Mr. Robertson wrote on the new Troup Factory letterhead, ornate with fancy type fonts and embellishments of the period. The arrangement was like this:

B. C. Ferrell  
W. H. Huntley

Directors:  
A. D. Abraham, President

Jno. W. Park  
S. P. Smith

TROUP FACTORY  
Manufactures  
Heavy Cotton Checks and Stripes,  
White and Colored Cotton Yarns,  
Heavy and Light Osnaburgs, Mattresses, Etc.  
LaGrange, Ga. 188

Office and Ware-rooms  
LaGrange, Ga.

The message about the products of Troup Factory was the same as used on the old letterhead of Robertson, Leslie & Company.

#### Success of New Management

Troup Factory operations under the new management of 1881 were termed a "very remarkable success" by the *Columbus Daily Enquirer Sun* in an article dated Friday, May 16, 1884.

At a meeting of the stockholders on Tuesday, May 13, 1884 a dividend of \$1,904.00 was declared out of earnings of the past six months. This amounted to more than 4% on the capital stock.

The six semi-annual dividends declared since the reorganization of Robertson, Leslie & Company in 1881 as Troup Factory amounted to \$11,524.00.

The reserve fund of cash on hand amounted to \$13,056.48. Added to the \$11,524.00 dividends paid, the gross profit for three years was \$24,580.48. "In other words," the *Enquirer* stated, "the factory has about paid for itself within this period. This reserve does not include money already spent in repairs, which has been considerable, but that actually on hand."

At the annual meeting of 1884, Anderson D. Abraham, one of the founders of The LaGrange Banking & Trust Company, was re-elected president of Troup Factory. Blount C. Ferrell, John W. Park, Samuel Paul Smith and James Monroe Truitt, all petitioners for the new corporation in 1881, were chosen directors.

In the *LaGrange Reporter* of May 15, 1884 the current financial statement of Troup Factory was published, "as exhibited to and approved by the Board of Directors at the regular annual meeting held May 13, 1884. Published by order of the Board."

#### Annual Return of the Condition of Troup Factory April 30, 1884 \* \* \*

Liabilities		Resources	
Capital Stock	\$47,000.00	930 Acres of Land, Machinery, &c.	\$31,500.00
Accounts Payable	1,909.28	Cash Deposited in Bank	4,260.89
Bill Payable 11/15/84	2,557.06	Cotton on Hand	8,909.38
Semi-Annual Dividend	1,904.00	Goods on Hand, or Unpaid For	16,896.00
Surplus Fund	13,056.48	Accounts Receivable	1,450.55
		Bills Receivable	200.00
		Warp, Filling and Cotton in Process	2,000.00
		Waste and Old Bagging	135.00
		Factory Supplies and Dyestuffs	475.00
		Four Mules and One Wagon	500.00
		Office Furniture and Iron Safe	100.00
			\$66,426.82



### Troup Factory Shut Down

At summer's end, 1884, the Troup Factory "shut down for the time being," it was noted in the *LaGrange Reporter* for Friday, September 26, 1884. "Whether for too little water [for water power derived from Flat Shoals Creek], or 'too much cloth,' we have not been informed. It is a prosperous enterprise when there is any sale for goods."

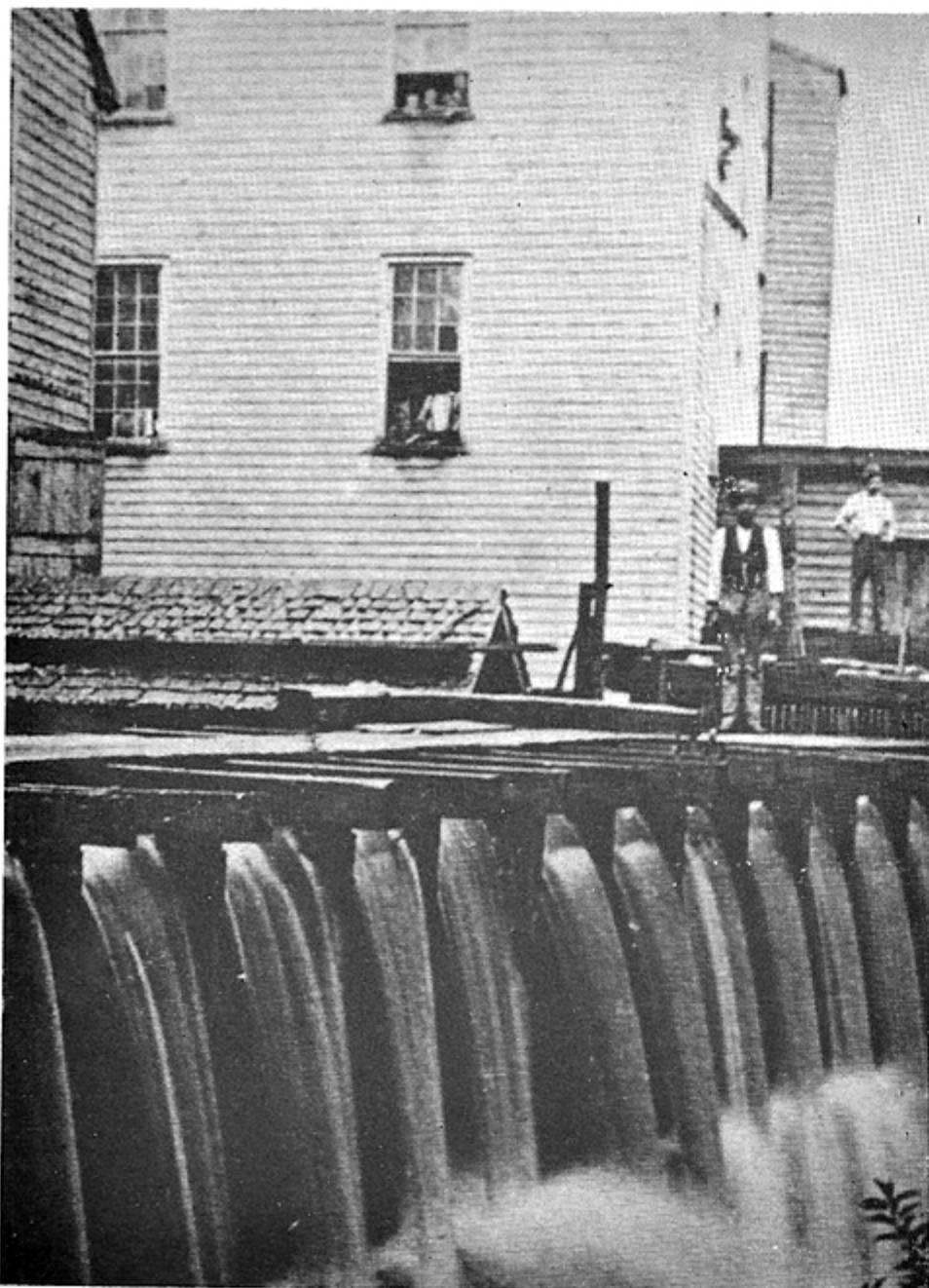
### Road to Troup Factory

From LaGrange to Troup Factory, thence to Chipley [now Pine Mountain] in Harris County, the road went up and down some "painful hills" for travelers in buggies, carriages, wagons and even on horseback. Rainy weather turned the narrow thoroughfare into muddy ruts of red clay. Dry weather saw the dust fly and the vanishing of whatever topsoil was on the road.

A Troup Factory correspondent writing in the *Reporter* for April 15, 1886 said the "road to Troup Factory is in fair condition, but might be improved. Owing to the continued dry weather, all [roads] are harder and firmer, but full of ruts, stones and inequalities.

"The present Grand Jury could do great good by looking closely and conscientiously after the county roads.

"If we were asked what is the first requisite of local prosperity, we would answer: Good roads. And what is the second? Better roads. And what the third? The best roads that can be made."



SUPERINTENDENT WHITE on a gangplank over the "water house" where power was derived from Flat Shoals Creek. Rear view of old Brooks' Mill ["Flouring Mill"], left foreground, and Troup Factory in background. Corless Collection, SOUTHERN VIEWS.

### Oats, Mill and Gin

In the Troup Factory news appearing in the *Reporter* for May 20, 1886 the first item was about Leslie W. Dallis having the "best patch of oats in the settlement."

James Oliver Perry was "making arrangements to build a corn [grist] mill and [cotton] ginnery near the Troup Factory. Jim is like the little boy. He is into all manner of devilment and is the luckiest man I ever saw," the correspondent said.

### New Machinery for Troup Factory

Practically all of the machinery in Troup Factory was obsolete when it shut down in 1884, in spite of expenditures since the Civil War. It was a time of decision. Management could quit or renew.

The officers and directors decided to make additional capital investment in the property to equip practically a new mill. The *Reporter's* correspondent at Troup Factory, "Levi," wrote in the issue of May 20, 1886:

The putting up of the new machinery at Troup Factory is now going on. Its long suspension has been a great calamity to this portion of the county, and especially to some of the young bucks in this neighborhood [i.e., the young fellows about town did not have much spending money!].

We hope soon to hear the old familiar ring from its walls [a bell was rung early in the morning and at quitting time] that the writer has been accustomed to hear for over thirty years.

The then president of Troup Factory, John Lemuel Robertson, announced in the *LaGrange Reporter* for June 3, 1886 "that all of the new machinery — 52 looms and 1,600 spindles — for Troup Factory has arrived and is now being placed in position by three machinists from Lowell, where it was purchased. Mr. Robertson thinks the factory will be ready to start again by July 15, at the latest. This is good news, after the long suspension."

It was reported further that "The outfit is all of modern make, and when everything has been put in readiness, the factory will be a new one and one of the most thoroughly equipped in the state. That part of the county will soon feel the impetus of the enterprise, now placed beyond all apprehension of failure."

*Dockham's Textile Directory* for 1888 listed Troup Factory with capital of \$47,600. Sheetings, shirtings and drills were produced. There were 52 looms and 1,600 spindles, water power driven.

Austin, Bates & Wellington, of New York, were Selling Agents for Troup Factory. This may have been the first time the Troup Factory was represented by a Northern selling firm.

Worth Street in New York, a concentration of commission and selling houses for the cotton textile industry, was important then. It grew to be the principal market for the production of the industry.

Customarily, cotton cloth was consigned by the mills to the selling agents, to be sold at the Worth Street auctions. A commission was taken for selling and guaranteeing the credit of the buyer.

A direct New York connection, particularly in view of Troup Factory's entry into the sheetings and shirtings market, was advantageous. The sights of the new corporation were set beyond those of Thomas Leslie, so long the agent identified with production and selling at Troup Factory.

John L. Robertson was president, with Robert S. White, superintendent.

#### Thomas Leslie

Thomas Leslie, of the original Troup Factory firm of Robertson, Leslie & Company, who was associated in business with James Madison Creed Robertson for about 43 years, died on March 24, 1887. He was born May 19, 1812 in Wilkes County, Georgia.

Lesley was one of the various spellings of the name in Revolutionary War times. His grandfather, Thomas Lesley, was born about 1750. About 1774 he moved from Virginia to Wilkes County, Georgia. In 1779 he moved to South Carolina, where he served in the South Carolina militia regiment of Colonel Pickens.

Four children were born to Thomas and Frances Lesley: Thomas, Lydia, Mary and Hannah. Thomas Lesley, the father, died in 1800 in Wilkes County, Georgia.

Thomas Leslie, son of Thomas and Frances Lesley (Leslie), was born in Wilkes County about 1779. Catherine Thornton, daughter of William and Sarah Thornton, of Wilkes County, became his bride in 1804.

Thomas and Catherine Thornton Leslie were the parents of six children: Sarah, David, Felix, Mary, Thomas and Media. The father was a justice of the peace several years and a member of Colonel Wootten's regiment of Wilkes County militia, serving against the Indians in Georgia and Alabama during the 1814 campaigns.

Mr. Leslie died in 1826. Mrs. Leslie was later married to Ignatius Russell, of Troup County. They had no children.

When Thomas Leslie, son of Thomas and Catherine Thornton Leslie, was about seventeen, he opened a merchandise store in Hamilton, Harris County. About 1831 he moved to Warm Springs, Meriwether County, and was in business there several years.

While living at Warm Springs, Thomas Leslie returned to Wilkes County to marry Louisa Villiers Anderson on September 3, 1835. The marriage rites were read by the Rev. Enoch Callaway, noted Baptist preacher whose son, the Rev. Abner Reeves Callaway, later lived on a plantation in Meriwether County near Greenville.

In 1838, Thomas Leslie moved to Greenville from Warm Springs. There he began his long partnership with James Madison Creed Robertson.

Mrs. Louisa Villiers Anderson Leslie was born August 25, 1815 in Wilkes County and died June 27, 1891 in Troup County. She and her husband are buried in the Crowder Family Cemetery at Mark Hall plantation, Meriwether County.





MRS. THOMAS LESLIE (1815-1891)  
Nee Louisa Villiers Anderson. She was married to Thomas Leslie in Wilkes County, Ga., September 3, 1835. Courtesy Mrs. Henry S. Crowder, Sr.



THOMAS LESLIE (1812-1887)  
Partner, manager and agent of Troup Factory (Robertson, Leslie & Co.) 1846-1881. Courtesy Mrs. Henry S. Crowder, Sr., Warm Springs, Ga.

She was the daughter of Thomas and Sarah Tate Anthony Anderson. Her father was a Georgia soldier of the War of 1812. He was born February 13, 1772 in Bedford County, Virginia and died March 4, 1861 in Wilkes County, Georgia.

Her mother was born January 16, 1774 in Henry County, Virginia and died December 5, 1866 in Wilkes County, Georgia. She was married to Thomas Anderson on April 12, 1799 in Wilkes County, and was the daughter of James and Nancy Tate Anthony of Henry County, Virginia. She was their tenth and youngest child.

The children of Thomas and Louisa Villiers Anderson Leslie were:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Katherine "Kate" Leslie<br/>born August 22, 1836<br/>married to Henry Eppes Moss<br/>on April 10, 1860<br/>born September 24, 1833<br/>died December 11, 1885<br/>she died May 3, 1908<br/>Issue: 9 children</li> <li>2. Anderson Leslie<br/>born December 28, 1837<br/>married Virginia A. Reid<br/>on December 20, 1859<br/>died 1873<br/>Issue: 5 children</li> <li>3. Frances "Fannie" Leslie<br/>born August 5, 1839<br/>died August, 1842</li> <li>4. Robert Leslie<br/>born April 15, 1841<br/>married Mollie Truitt<br/>in October, 1866</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issue: 4 children<br/>(In 1882; no later record)</li> <li>5. William P. Leslie<br/>born September 6, 1842<br/>died in infancy</li> <li>6. Elizabeth "Lizzie" Leslie<br/>born October 18, 1843<br/>died June 6, 1914<br/>never married</li> <li>7. Sarah "Sallie" Leslie<br/>born May 19, 1845<br/>married to Dr. Andrew Edward Beasley<br/>on July 9, 1867<br/>died March 27, 1928<br/>Issue: 4 children</li> <li>8. Thomas Leslie<br/>born November 12, 1846<br/>died June 22, 1864<br/>never married</li> </ol> |
|---|--|



- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>9. Jeannette "Jennie" Leslie<br/>         born June 1, 1848<br/>         died June 13, 1902<br/>         married to Henry Scott "Hal" Crowder<br/>         on October 26, 1871<br/>         Issue: 7 children</p> <p>10. Louisa Leslie<br/>         born September 7, 1851<br/>         married to Leslie Wellington Dallis<br/>         on May 15, 1872</p> | <p>died February 18, 1943<br/>         No issue</p> <p>11. Mary "Mollie" Leslie<br/>         born May 11, 1853<br/>         married to Abner Thomas Dallis<br/>         on May 15, 1872<br/>         died May 1, 1883<br/>         No issue</p> |
|---|---|

Robert Leslie and Thomas Leslie were Confederate soldiers. Thomas was stationed for a while at Andersonville, Georgia at the prisoner camp. He came home to Troup Factory on a short furlough. Probably suffering from his malady on arrival, he became sick with "inflammation of the bowels," and died in two or three days. He and others of the family are buried in the Leslie Family Cemetery at Troup Factory.

#### Wedding of Jeannette Leslie

A wedding invitation of Henry Scott and Jeannette Leslie Crowder is preserved in the records of their descendants. The bride was a baby when her father moved to Troup Factory from Meriwether County. Henry Scott "Hal" Crowder was born in Meriwether County on May 5, 1846. The invitation reads:

You are respectfully invited to  
 Mr. & Mrs. Thos. Leslie's  
 Troup Factory, Ga.  
 October 26th 7½ P. M. 1871  
 to the  
 Marriage Ceremony  
 of  
 Hal S. Crowder      Jennie Leslie

Troup Factory people loved the pretty bride, Jennie Leslie. They rejoiced with her in her happiness. Good looking Hal Crowder was well known to them during the courtship. All felt they had a part in the "big doings" at the Leslie home the day of her marriage!

#### Thomas Leslie's Will

In the Troup County census of 1860, Thomas Leslie was listed as a merchant by occupation, with \$1,000. of real estate and \$40,000. of personal estate. His son, Robert Leslie, 19, had occupation as farmer.

Anderson Leslie, eldest son of Thomas Leslie, was listed as a merchant. James Rudney, 22, born in Georgia, and his family, lived in the Anderson Leslie household. Rudney was a farmer.

Thomas Leslie made his last will and testament on August 22, 1864, "being aware of the uncertainty of life and the certainty of death, and wishing to place my affairs in a proper condition while alive and in health." To his wife, Mrs. Louisa Villiers Anderson Leslie, he bequeathed all the furniture and household articles "now on my premises," and one fourth of all his estate, "either to be divided as it stands or to be sold if thought best and her part paid to her in money."

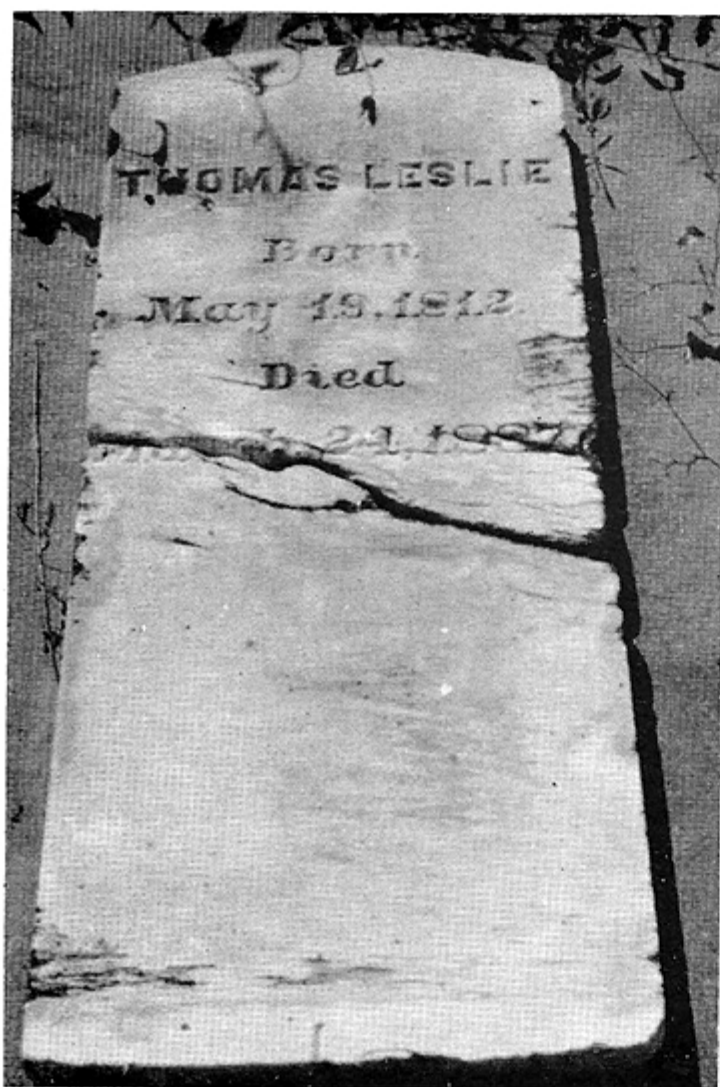
Concerning his Troup Factory investment, he willed "that whenever my Factory interest can be sold at something like par for it to be sold and the balance of proceeds divided equally with my children, to be kept by guardian until they (the youngest) becomes of age or marry."

He noted that his eldest children, Anderson and Katherine Leslie "have received some portion of their legacy which can be seen on memorandum; that, of course, comes in before they receive any more. I desire for all my children to share equally."

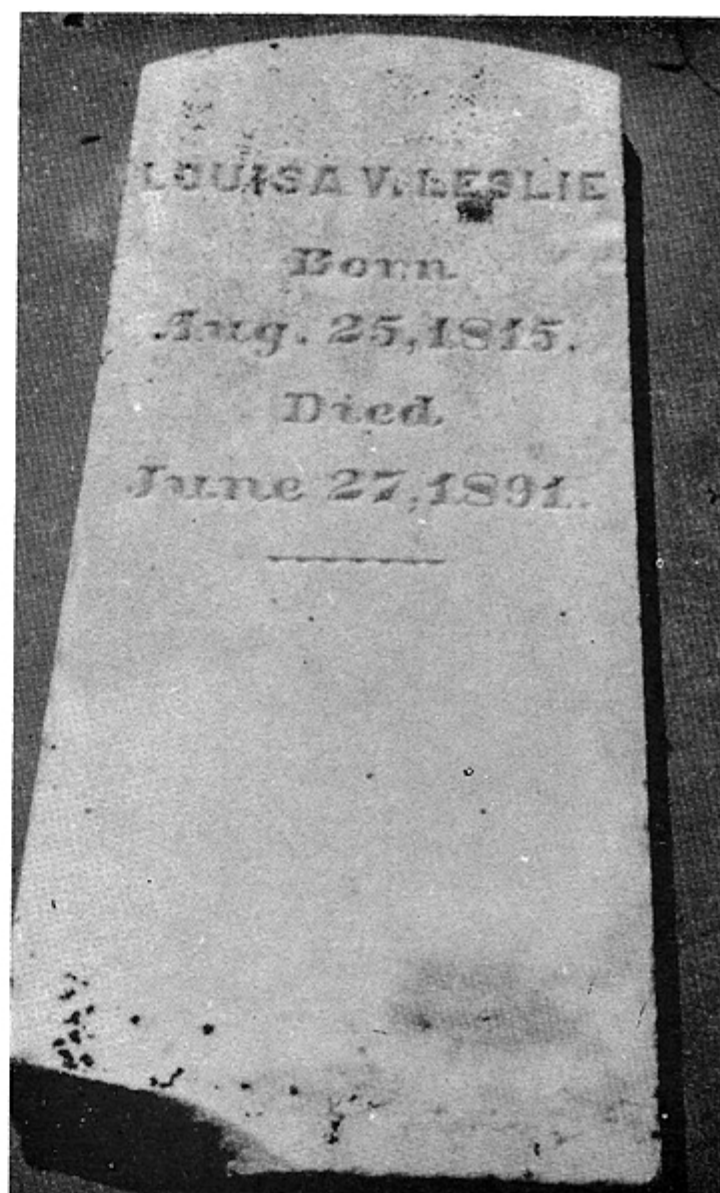
His friend, James Madison Creed Robertson, with Mrs. Leslie, were appointed executors. The witnesses to the will were other old time friends at Troup Factory, James D. Hardy, B. McKigney and Thomas A. Perry.

Thomas Leslie added a codicil to his will on April 28, 1871. He found his affairs changed "insomuch that two of my children, Sally and Robert have married and have been given about two thousand dollars in cash & other property which is charged to them on my little book. They, of course, like the older two, cannot draw any more until all the younger children are made up to that amount."

He noted that since the will was written, "I have given and sold to my son, A. Leslie, one fourth of my half interest in Troup Factory property (see his check) except dividends to 1st Jan. 1871, for \$7,500. Of this he owes me \$3,000. (see his note)."



GRAVESTONE OF THOMAS LESLIE  
In Crowder Family Cemetery, Mark Hall Plantation, near Greenville, Meriwether County, Ga.



GRAVESTONE OF MRS. LOUISA V. LESLIE  
In Crowder Family Cemetery.

His bequest to Mrs. Leslie was changed to "give her one fourth of all my present estate in my whole property, lands, notes, cash & indeed everything I possess, including Factory interest, in every shape, besides the house & furniture mentioned in the 1st part of this instrument."

It was his advice to his wife that the Troup Factory interest be sold and she "retire from it, but to hold if she desires." The balance of his estate was to go equally to all his children, to be divided or sold as they might agree.

The witnesses to the codicil were W. V. Gray, John Thompson and Thomas A. Perry.

#### William Varnum Gray

The first witness to the codicil was William Varnum Gray, the son of Davis Gray and Mrs. Media Leslie (Jones) Gray. Her first husband, Willis Jones, of Harris County, died in 1838. There were three children. She was married to Davis Gray of Harris County in 1839. They lived near Hamilton and ten children were born to them. In the winter of 1851, the Grays moved to Greenwood, Jackson County, Florida. About 1866 or 1867, they moved to Maury County, Tennessee. Mrs. Gray died in 1874 and Mr. Gray in 1879 or 1880.

After the Civil War, William Varnum Gray came to Troup Factory to work for his uncle, Thomas Leslie. He was a clerk in the Troup Factory Store and was later bookkeeper.

George Elbert Dallas (1855-1913), and Virgil E. Dallis (1853-1928), of Troup Factory, began a dry goods business in LaGrange in the 1870's. They hired "Willie" Gray as their bookkeeper. He became a partner and bought the business about 1880. W. V. Gray Dry Goods Company, on East Court Square, LaGrange, operated until he retired about 1914.

Mr. Gray was one of the incorporators of The LaGrange Oil & Manufacturing Company, chartered in 1883, to extract cotton seed oil. The plant later, as LaGrange Mills, manufactured cotton textiles.

While at Troup Factory, Willie Gray met Ella Willis Render of Meriwether County, who visited her aunt, Mrs. Thomas Leslie. They were married in 1876. She was the daughter of Robert Lewis and Elizabeth Harris Anderson Render. She was born February 3, 1851 and died June 10, 1923.

There were six children born to the Grays. Three sons died of diseases now preventable. Elizabeth "Lizzie" Gray was a teacher and married to Robert L. Adams. Mabel Gray was for many years secretary to the general manager and president of Dunson Mills, a cotton textile plant of LaGrange. Ellie Gray became a teacher and Methodist missionary in Korea.

#### **Troup Factory in 1888**

Troup Factory, in 1888, had a population of 200, according to *Georgia State Gazetteer, Business and Planters' Directory, 1888-89*, A. E. Sholes, Compiler. The mail was tri-weekly and C. T. Freeman was postmaster. LaGrange was its center for bank, rail depot, telegraph and express office.

Thomas Brooks then operated a grist mill and gin at Troup Factory, Leslie W. Dallis was a lumber manufacturer. B. H. Herndon operated a tannery and was a shoemaker. Ransom Bros. & Freeman operated a general merchandise store in the old Troup Factory Store building. The Rev. W. B. Cotter was listed as a Methodist minister at Troup Factory. Dr. William Patrick Gaffney was the physician in the community. He was born May 17, 1857 and died April 9, 1922.

B. H. Herndon was born September 27, 1821 and died January 27, 1897. He and his wife, Mrs. Frances Herndon, born December 3, 1825 and died November 12, 1908 are buried in the Herndon Family Cemetery.

#### **James Day Hardy**

On October 22, 1888 James Day Hardy died at Troup Factory, Georgia. He was a member of Troup Factory Lodge No. 115 F. & A. M. The lodge adopted unanimous resolutions on the passing of its member, stating "Brother Hardy was one of the pioneers of Troup County's settlement, one of the old guard who have given our county its name and fame as the home of a people possessed of all the elements of true and exalted manhood."

Brother Hardy was true and sincere in all the relations of life, generous, liberal and hospitable, a man of great energy and industry, applying himself with assiduous persistence to whatever his hand found to do.

His open-handed generosity was ever extended to any call for individual aid or public enterprise, and we feel that his death has caused a void in our community which will be difficult to fill.

It was resolved that "a page be left blank upon our minute book in token of our esteem for the memory of our deceased brother."

James Day Hardy was the son of Thomas Hardy (1795-1870), and wife, Susan Day Hardy (1801-1862). He was born December 12, 1819. In 1840 he married Mary Jane Gates, born March 6, 1822 and died October 25, 1852. She was the daughter of James Rowland Gates (1794-1868), and wife, Elizabeth Cox Gates (1796-1874), whose old home still stands in the County Line Community.

James Day Hardy married (2) Ann E. Allen, born March 6, 1834 and died May 1, 1891. They are buried in the Thomas Hardy Family Cemetery.

The committee of lodge brethren drawing the resolutions was composed of George Wright, John Estes and J. J. Talley.

#### **Better Times**

Times looked better at the beginning of 1889, according to Dr. W. P. Gaffney, who was quoted in "Local Leaflets," a personal column of the *LaGrange Reporter* for February 7, 1889. "The people around Troup Factory have paid their debts and are in good condition financially. They are mostly small farmers who live at home."

The editor commented "We are glad to hear that prosperity is to be found in some sections of the county. May it come to all this year."

Ransom Bros. & Freeman, of Troup Factory, advertised they were "special agents for the German Compound remedies," along with other medicines, groceries and general merchandise.

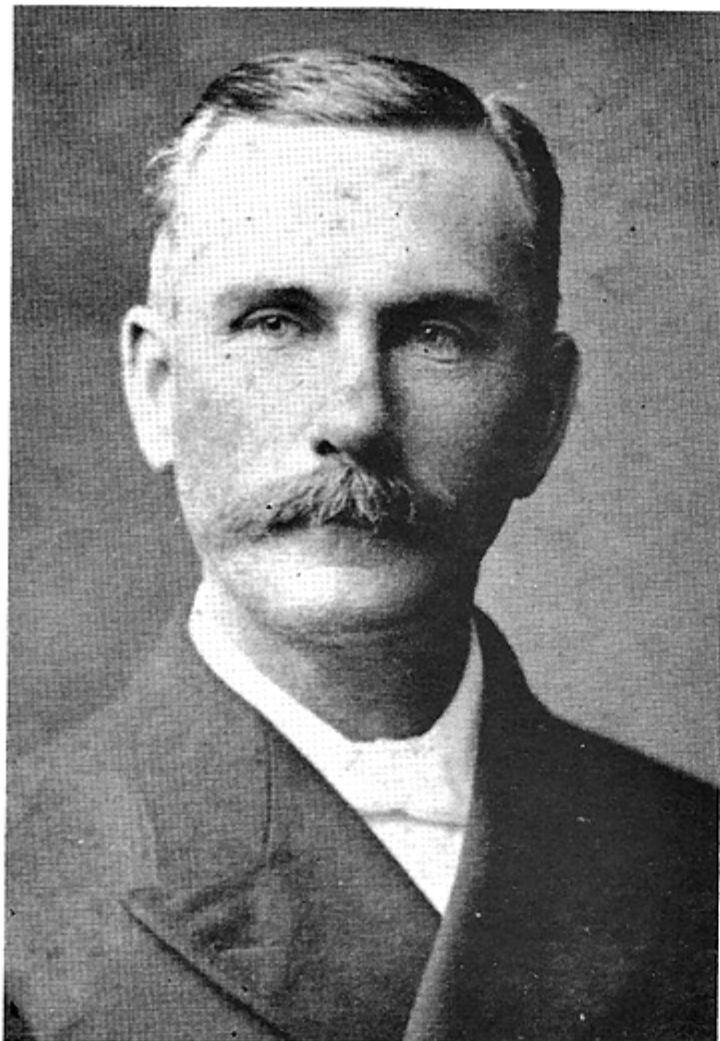
#### **John Lemuel Robertson**

In the *Reporter* for October 24, 1889 there was a notice quoted from the *Greenville Meriwether Vindicator* that "there is a prospect of Col. J. L. Robertson, president of Troup Factory, moving to Greenville. This reporter has fathomed the rumor and found it not very deep. Col. Robertson has no intention of moving to Greenville — not for the present, at least. LaGrange could illy spare him."



For some time, Mr. Robertson lived in a house near Troup Factory, which burned. After the fire, he and his family moved to LaGrange and lived in a home on Vernon Street.

John Lemuel Robertson was a man of contemplative mind, a "searcher of the Scriptures," as well as business man. He taught Sunday School for many years. He wrote religious articles for church publications.



JOHN LEMUEL ROBERTSON (1849-1903)  
*President of Troup Factory. From a photograph by Moore & Stephenson, Atlanta, Ga.*



MRS. JOHN LEMUEL ROBERTSON (1852-1928)  
*Nee Mary Harris, daughter of Congressman Henry R. Harris. Photographed at the wedding of her daughter, Leonora Frances Robertson, to George Samuel Foster, on December 2, 1914.*

Mr. Robertson was a respected citizen of Troup and Meriwether counties.

On a sheet of Troup Factory stationery, bearing his name as president, and the legend "Manufacturers of Sheetings, Shirtings, Drills, etc.," Mr. Robertson dated a memorandum June 26, 1886 and penned:

As I write the date June 26th I am reminded that I am in the presence of another recurring birthday; and as the figures 37 are registered I realize that the largest part of my journey has been traveled.

Behind me are the flowers, the singing birds and dreamy aspirations of childhood and youth; before me are weary miles, rugged steeps, turbid waters and a blazing sun.

I pause a moment and turn my eyes to the rear and how they fill with tears as I think of my boyhood days, my young manhood, my old home, my old father and mother, but the end of that way is the cradle. My spirit speaks the answer unbidden: There's no rest there!

I turn my eyes in the other direction; the way is unmarked, but over the peaks I catch the track as it leads to the grave. Does my heart quake and my limbs tremble as I see the destination of the body after the conflict is over and the day is spent? Nay—nay.

My immortal spirit reads upon the horizon, all aglow with heavenly light, 'I am the resurrection and the life.' With hope in my heart and faith in God I take up my journey again and press on, not to the grave but to Life Eternal.

Two years later, on June 26, 1888 John Lemuel Robertson wrote again a page of "Birthday Thoughts" on Troup Factory stationery:

And still the great clock of Time registers for me another birthday anniversary. By God's grace I have been spared 39 years in this world.

No bitter sorrow has clouded my life. My heavenly Father has been good to me. Only one shadow has come over me — when we buried my noble hearted father, but his last dying words remain with me to comfort me and to cheer me on.

Still my heart responds to questionings, that however dead the past is, it longs for a future life. Another truth has dawned upon me, which is full of life, activity and joy, like the morning, and that is that Christ, my Savior, who is 'the resurrection and the life,' said also 'I am the way.'

The way then to the grave, which travels through the unknown future, is no longer dark and unseen but shines out clear and distinct if I follow Him and live by faith in Christ.

Oh Father, help me to learn this simple yet grandest of truth!

In his scrapbook, John Lemuel Robertson pasted copies of his published religious articles, obituaries of friends and relatives written by him and clippings of letters he wrote to the editors of local papers during the 1880's and 1890's.

He felt keenly for "Prohibition," and wrote occasionally on that subject. Once, prior to "Our City Election" in LaGrange, he warned the people against a slate of "anti-prohibitionists."

A long letter, headed "Building Wisely," contained "Sage Suggestions to Citizens and City Fathers," as they planned for the LaGrange of the future. "That LaGrange will be a city of importance, none of us doubts," he wrote on November 20, 1890. "Every business plan we have . . . private or public, ought if possible to be planned as for a city of 10,000 to 20,000 inhabitants. Where the people are to come from, what they will do when they come, and how long we shall have to wait for them, is not the question. They will come from all quarters, and will find employment, and I fear will be here before we are ready to receive them."

Three things are needed to prepare us for the vast army of newcomers who are already knocking at our gates — waterworks, public schools and new homes.

. . . New homes will require the opening of new streets, and important improvements of this sort are now in contemplation . . . the work is important since it affects the present and future of our city, and it should be done systematically, uniformly and after some plan.

All new cities engage the services of, and all old cities employ regularly, a thoroughly competent engineer to take charge of such improvements. Now then, we ought to employ an expert, one with experience and rank, and let him lay off the future city into streets after the model of the best approved modern cities, but harmonizing the plan as much as possible with the original plan of the city.

. . . Our city is located on a cluster of commanding hills, with some of the loveliest landscapes and most charming views that can be found, and why should we not add to this natural beauty by adopting one of the best approved and most handsome plans that modern times furnish? Anything short of this will be a botch and a blot.

Let a careful map of this survey be made that will show the fills and excavations of every street, the width of every main and cross street, the size or depth of every block, and lay down the whole system of sewerage, both trunk and confluent, required for a dense population within such limits.

The wisdom of the plan is patent and its advantages will be incalculable. Then when new streets are opened, they will be in conformity with the survey and map and the width, grading and site of grounds will all be regulated after the model and not after the crude ideas of an official, nor the preferences of an owner.

Drawing on his years of residence at Troup Factory and experience there, Mr. Robertson wrote that "The cotton mill builder, before he ever buys a brick, a stick of timber, or piece of machinery, has his plans all carefully matured — floor space, size, height, thickness of walls and every piece of lumber settled and every specification for every machine, in every particular, from top to bottom, is known and laid down. A common carpenter takes the the same precaution, and in fact, success demands that it shall be done in every undertaking. Therefore, a city that builds to please and to endure must employ like methods."

Mr. Robertson, a reader of *The Atlanta Constitution* "for many years," wrote the editors on August 10, 1887 to express his thanks for the paper's "square out, manly articles against 'pistol toters,' and . . . that you intend to urge upon the present legislature and continue in the work, when begun, the elevation of the crime of pistol toting into felony." He said:

The man who carries a pistol habitually is a menace to the peace of society and is an embryonic outlaw and already has committed homicide in his heart.

Mr. Robertson took an active interest in Troup and Meriwether County politics. In one of his letters, "A Plea for Harmony," he advised against a "mass meeting to put out Independent candidates" to oppose those already elected in primaries and by delegates meeting in Democratic convention.



When his father-in-law, Congressman Henry R. Harris, was serving as Third Assistant Postmaster General, he wrote that Mr. Harris "was not in the race" again for Congress, as some sources alleged.

If Col. Harris was a candidate, he would so announce himself. His life, character and whole nature are opposed to dissimulation and sharp practice. Besides, he has never yet betrayed a friend and what is more remarkable, he has never punished an enemy.

He could not be ignorant, however, of the hold he has on the people of his old district, and if he had desired to 'win the prize,' being fleet of foot than any of his friends, he would have entered the race himself.

. . . I would like to see the custom restored for the candidates to meet on the hustings and discuss the questions of the day before the people. This plan is both educative to the masses and elevating to the manners and morale of the parties, because men will not say in public speech what they will oftentimes publish under under a *nom de plume*.

Mr. Robertson wrote the obituary of an employee of Troup Factory when his friend, B. A. Hearn, "died at his home at Troup Factory a triumphant death on February 4, 1891, age 58 years."

Having worked in our cotton mill for 30 years, uninterruptedly, he was well known to the writer. He held the position of boss-carder for years, a responsible, difficult and important place. He had all the while retained the confidence and esteem of his employers. With the highest respect for him and a tender admiration for his virtues, I bring this tribute, more for the sake of the living than the dead.

Occupying an humble place, as men think, he filled his station modestly and meekly, but fully and successfully, and his example is worthy of emulation. He was one man that magnified his work; was patient in its prosecution and faithful in its discharge. His employers' interest and his own were one; he knew no difference.

With those under him he was patient, considerate and very kind. He made them feel that he was their friend and they loved him and obeyed him. As he moved about his work, he was so quiet, so self-possessed, so attentive and so firm.

"As a representative of a class," Mr. Robertson wrote, "his character and his life were remarkable, and looked at and studied in that sense, he becomes more than the modest, true-hearted man that he was. He was a model among his associates. Faithful to his superiors, gentle and just to his subordinates, earnest in his life work, and true to his God, he exemplified a noble manhood.

"Such a life as this shines out a beautiful light over the vocation that he followed, and, not confined there, its soft and mellow rays reach and radiate every lowly walk and humble home."

God sees better than we. To us it seems that a life like this should be spared to the world. But Christ's words are, 'Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone; but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.'

#### A Sad Accident

The Troup Factory community was grieved by a "sad accident" occurring on October 29, 1890. Mr. Jeff Hart, a well digger, was made sick by gas while being drawn from a well. He lost his hold on the rope and fell head downward to the bottom. "A worthy man lost his life," and the "saddest feature," according to the *LaGrange Reporter* for November 7, 1890 "is that he leaves a large family who were dependent on his labor for their support . . . God will surely so order it that the orphans shall not suffer."

#### Troup Factory Bonds

A notice appeared in the *Reporter* for January 16, 1890 concerning "Troup Factory Bonds." The company had issued twenty-four \$500. bonds bearing interest at seven percent, "payable on the first days of May and November at the office of President J. L. Robertson, in LaGrange."

The total amount, \$12,000., was secured by a first mortgage on the buildings, machinery and lands of the corporation. A lien on the fire insurance carried on the mill buildings and plant "further fortified" the bond issue. To make the transaction "good beyond peradventure," it was stated that a deed of trust had been executed to B. G. Swanson, S. P. Smith and Dr. F. M. Ridley covering the entire property.

"The money will be used to make improvements," the notice concluded.

#### Prosperous in 1890

Troup Factory stockholders met in LaGrange on May 13, 1890. A semi-annual dividend of 4% was declared. The *LaGrange Reporter*, in an article on Friday, May 23, 1890 said that "Troup Factory is in a very prosperous condition. . . The mill is now well equipped with new machinery which has proved



to be a profitable investment, for ever since it was put in the factory has been making money. It now has a surplus of both cash and cotton on hand."

Pres. Robertson and his board deserve much credit for their able and careful management of the affairs of the corporation. A few years ago the factory was quite run down, the machinery worn out, and the stock below par.

Today, no manufacturing enterprise of the same proportion in the State is doing better, or has a brighter outlook.

#### **J. M. C. Robertson's Will**

President Robertson's father, James Madison Creed Robertson, of Meriwether County, died October 13, 1886. His last will and testament was made on September 4, 1879.

Under the will, bequests of Troup Factory stock were made to his family in the amount of \$5,000. to Mary Eliza Robertson; \$1,600. to John Lemuel Robertson; \$2,000. to J. M. C. Robertson, Jr., and the remainder to his wife, Mrs. Mary Kendall Robertson, for her natural life, then to be divided among their children at her death.

Concerned for the financial stability of the Troup Factory enterprise after his death, James Madison Creed Robertson specified in *Item 10th*:

It is my desire and I so direct that the Factory shall not be crippled or embarrassed by the payment of the specific legacies charged upon it or the payment of any dividends until the debts now against it shall have been all discharged and the same shall be entirely free from debt.

In the meantime, I desire that my interest in Troup Factory shall be under the control and management of my son, John L. Robertson, in conjunction with the surviving partner, Thomas Leslie.

I desire that my son aforesaid shall act in concert with my old partner, in whose integrity and ability I have reposed the utmost confidence for over forty years.

#### **A Sale of Stock**

In 1891, "money needed to open business on," brought into market for sale 32 shares of Troup Factory stock, to be sold "privately or at public outcry before court house door in LaGrange on first Tuesday in June next [1891] during the usual sale hours."

John Lemuel Robertson, in connection with the stock offering, gave some facts about Troup Factory operations since the installation in 1886 of the new looms and spinning to produce sheetings.

The new sheetings mill started up in September, 1886. Troup Factory plant was valued then at \$36,265. The expenditures for machinery and installation had left it "with no commercial capital," so \$6,000. in cash were borrowed to begin operations.

In the "four years and eight months since its reorganization," the mill paid out \$8,568. in dividends. "Assets and valuable improvements" were added to the plant in amount "over \$10,000."

Mr. Robertson pointed out that this represented a total earnings of \$18,568., "which is 51 per cent on the actual capital invested."

In other words, starting with a nominal capital stock of \$47,600., with only \$36,265. paid in, the mill has paid out to stockholders \$8,568. and brought the stock up in real value to nearly par.

Admitting that "In 1890 and '91 the mill has not done well," he stated "the circumstances were anomalous and will not recur. High price cotton bought before the decline, cloth price declining and dipping lower than at any time before, a freshet [flood waters on Flat Shoals Creek causing a shutdown] and a scant turnout [production]," were unfavorable factors named by President Robertson.

"While the first three might occur again, the latter serious default is now remedied altogether by the putting in of more spindles.

"These facts afford a purchaser every assurance that the stock will be dividend paying in the future. Besides, the mill now possesses a full quota of machinery in every department, which it has not had in the past, and is making nice, sightly goods that are well known and well esteemed in the markets."

#### **Christmas at Troup Factory**

For years, it was the custom for the Troup Factory management to distribute Christmas gifts to the employees during the holiday season. On Christmas morning, 1891, the "girls of the mill" gathered at Troup Factory to receive C. V. Truitt, the new president, and Charles H. Griffin, secretary of the company.

Mr. Griffin did not arrive for some reason and before the large box brought by Mr. Truitt was opened, the girls wanted to know if Mr. Griffin was in the box. Mr. Truitt responded by saying, "No, but his compliments were!"

The Troup Factory correspondent writing about the occasion in the *LaGrange Reporter* for January 8, 1892 said, "We will return them by sending our many thanks for his nice present and wish our President and Secretary a Happy New Year."

Mr. Griffin was very popular with the Troup Factory people. He was secretary and manager in 1892, later president and treasurer. At Christmas, 1892 he was presented a pair of "solid gold cuff buttons" by the employees. In the vernacular of the times, they noted he "sported" them daily as he wore them in his shirt cuffs.

That Christmas the operatives received from the president and directors "generous Christmas presents." In addition, Dr. Elisha D. Pitman (1825-1895), of LaGrange, well known physician, state legislator, 1875-1876, and mayor of the city 1889-90, "contributed a box of oranges from his Florida grove," according to the correspondent in the *Reporter* for January 6, 1893.

#### Waste Room Fire

On October 10, 1892 a Troup Factory employee was packing waste in the Waste Room when there was a sudden fire. The man's clothes were partially burned and "his hat lost" he got out of the way so fast! The Troup Factory correspondent who wrote about the fire, which destroyed the building near the main factory, said the cause "must have been a match and a mouse, or spontaneous combustion."

A waste baling press was destroyed worth \$10.00 and waste, \$25.00. The small building was valued at about \$65.00. There was no insurance.

#### Textile Directory Listings

*Dockham's Textile Directory* for 1897 showed that Troup Factory [the new corporation] was incorporated 1881, with capital of \$47,600. Charles H. Griffin was president and treasurer. Robert S. White was superintendent.

Sheetings, shirtings and drills were produced on 52 looms and 1,600 ring spindles, water powered. Haynes & Bishop, New York, were selling agents for Troup Factory.

The reference to "ring" spindles is significant, and to the interested meant that the factory was up-to-date in its spinning room. Ring spinning was invented in 1838, and it is possible some was installed before the Civil War or soon afterwards when improvements in the machinery at Troup Factory were made.

On the old-fashioned "mule" spinning, with which at least a part of Troup Factory was equipped for many years, threads were drafted, twisted and wound on cops in an intermittent action.

In ring spinning, providing a continuous spinning, a roving passed from an upright creel between draft rolls, through a yarn guide and downward to pass through a traveler rotating at high speed on the spinning ring, giving twist to the yarn. The ring is traversed in a vertical direction. A bobbin fitted on the spindle revolves with it and fills with yarn until the proper size "package" is reached.

Spinning rings are held in holders fitted into circular holes spaced evenly along a metal frame. Band or tape drive spindles are centered to be concentric with holes in the frame, the ring holders and rings. Spinning frames can be quite long and have duplicate sides. The diameter of ring is commonly about 1 $\frac{3}{8}$  to 3 inches.

The "mule" was a most important early improvement in spinning, increasing production as never before. The great advantage of ring spinning was that drafting, twisting and winding onto the bobbin were carried on simultaneously. It was a simpler and less expensive machine to buy and to operate. Continuous spinning made it more productive and in time ring spinning superseded the "mule."

When the weave room at Troup Factory was equipped with 52 new Lowell 36" looms in 1886, new ring spinning was installed in the spinning room.

The *Textile Manufacturers' Directory* for 1897-98 gave the same capitalization as in *Dockham's* and named Mr. Griffin and Mr. White in their previous positions. In addition to the 52 looms and 1,600 spindles, 14 cards were listed. Yarns were made in size 12's and 14's.

A boiler had been installed for some steam power. One water wheel [a Keffel wheel] was listed. Haines & Bishop, New York, were the selling agents.

*Dockham's Textile Directory* for 1899 carried much the same information as before but specified the width of the 52 looms as 36 inches, water power driven. Haines & Bishop still represented Troup Factory as selling agents.

### A Victim of Panic

In September, 1896 Troup Factory sheeting, heavy "AA" grade or quality, was advertised at price of 5¢ per yard, for goods 36 inches wide. This offering was made by Heyman, Merz & Company, famous department store of West Point, Georgia, serving a large area of Western Georgia and East Alabama since antebellum days.

At the dry goods store of E. R. Bradfield in LaGrange, Troup Factory sheetings sold at 4¢ per yard.

Practically, the goods were given away to move them from the factory. There was no money in it for Troup Factory any more!

The Panic of 1893 paralyzed much of the commerce of the nation as the second administration of President Grover Cleveland began, setting off a period of financial and business depression lasting about four years. Bankruptcies and failures were widespread. Farm prices declined in an aura of agricultural bleakness.

Troup Factory failed. The receivers, Charles H. Griffin and S. H. Truitt, advertised "Troup Factory Property For Sale" in the *LaGrange Reporter* for October 7, 1898.

Judge Sampson W. Harris, of the Coweta Circuit, ordered the receivers of Troup Factory Corporation, who were also vested with authority of the stockholders and directors, to sell the property at public outcry before the courthouse door in LaGrange, the first Tuesday in November, 1898.

Troup Factory property consisted of:

- 1—Four Story Cotton Mill Building with Picker Room (a rock building) detached
- 1—Storage House
- 1—Cotton Warehouse
- 1—Rock Store House (Troup Factory Store)
- 1—Two Story Grist Mill
- 930—Acres of Land, more or less, a portion of which was in cultivation.

Also included were "ample tenant houses for operatives." The cotton manufactory was complete with machinery for manufacturing sheetings, shirtings, drills and Osnaburgs. Water power was produced from Flat Shoals Creek, the mill having a rock dam, "new Keffel Wheel, Water House."

Title to the Troup Factory property was to be confirmed by Judge Harris at or during the November term of Troup County Superior Court, convening on the first Monday in November, 1898. The legal advertisement for the sale was dated September 30, 1898.

As November approached, smallpox was "prevalent" in the northern portion of Troup County, and on November 11 it was announced that Superior Court was postponed until the second Monday in January, 1899. The sale of the Troup Factory property was to be held on the first Tuesday in January, 1899 by the receivers.

### Ten Cents and a Sale

The *LaGrange Reporter* headlined its article about the sale in the issue of Friday, January 27, 1899 with the startling words: "10 Cents Settles It. Mr. L. M. Park Buys Troup Factory by Raising a Bid of \$7500 Ten Cents."

Mr. L. M. Park purchased Troup Factory on Saturday last by raising a bid of \$7500. on the property 10 cents.

Several months ago, the Judge of Troup Superior Court authorized receivers to offer the property for sale, which was done. The sale, however, was to be confirmed by the court before the deeds of the property were turned over to the purchaser.

On the first Tuesday in January [1899] the factory was sold at public outcry, Mr. Park bidding \$6000. for it. In the meantime, before the papers were presented to the judge for his signature, a private bid was made of \$7500., which bid was about to be confirmed when Mr. Park objected on the ground that he had purchased the factory at the public sale and insisted that the property was his.

The court, however, explained to Mr. Park that the sale was subject to the confirmation of the court, and in order to protect the stockholders, it would confirm the sale at \$7500., assuring Mr. Park that if he would raise that bid the deeds would be turned over to him.

Mr. Park was given a few minutes for consideration and afterwards offered the court \$7500. and 10 cents, which was accepted.

The article concluded by stating "Mr. Park will continue to run the factory where it stands, for the present at least."



### Lemuel Madison Park

Lemuel Madison Park, the new owner of Troup Factory, was born October 26, 1848 of a family prominent in Meriwether and Troup counties and the state. He was the son of John Park (1800-1849), and wife, Mrs. Sarah Truly Robertson Park (1805-1882), who moved to Greenville, Meriwether County, from LaGrange about 1844. He had been president of LaGrange Female Academy, 1834-42.

Mr. Park's wife, before her marriage was Adelaide Bigham, born January 3, 1855 and died June 13, 1893. She was the daughter of Judge Benjamin H. Bigham, born June 7, 1828 and wife, Mrs. Mary Jane Harris Bigham, born November 11, 1832.

Judge Bigham was state legislator from Troup County 1857-64, and judge of the Troup County Superior Court, 1864-65. He died December 29, 1892 and Mrs. Bigham died December 19, 1910.

Moving swiftly and with characteristic business acumen, Mr. Park set up an office in LaGrange for his new enterprise, which he named Park Mills.

He wrote on February 14, 1899 to his son, Howard Pope Park, then in college, but later a noted personality of the textile world, on the new letterhead of Park Mills. After dating his letter and addressing "My dear Howard," his first question was "How do you like the above heading? Or do you like the annexed sheet's heading better?"

The Park Mills letterhead was size approximately 6 x 9½ inches, printed in a pleasing but rather old-fashioned variety of type faces. In an arched arrangement were the words "This Factory Was Established in 1843" with the following underneath:

Oldest in Western Georgia  
PARK MILLS  
(Formerly Troup Factory)  
L. M. Park, President  
LaGrange, Ga., ..... 189....

In the upper left corner, surrounded with a line representing a cloth sample cut by pinking shears, were the vertically arranged words, "Manufacturers of Sheetings, Shirtings, Drills, Osnaburgs, 8 oz. Duck, Cotton Yarns, Carpet Warp, Cotton Batting." These products were separated by a double ruled line from other Park Mills activities, the making of "Water Ground Meal" and "Troup County Flour."

Another letterhead, page 3 of Mr. Park's letter, was like this:

This Factory was Established in 1843.  
Oldest in Western Georgia  
... Office of ...  
TROUP FACTORY  
... And ...  
PARK MILLS  
L. M. Park, - - - President.  
Latest Improved Cotton Ginnery in this Section  
LaGrange, Ga., ..... 189....

The list of products was the same as in the preceding letterhead.

Mr. Park wrote that "After getting these two sample heads set up, (I have only had twelve of each struck off), I have decided to have headings on 'typewriter' paper and guess I shall have to put it thus, as the paper will have to be wider [about 8½ x 11 inches]." The arrangement for heading on the wider paper was sketched in the letter:

<p>TROUP FACTORY &amp;c      &amp;c</p> <p>L. M. Park &amp; Sons: H. P. Park H. B. Park &amp;c &amp;c</p>	<p>Manufacturers &amp;c as on the left upper corner</p>
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"What do you say to this?" Mr. Park asked. "I hope we will be able in two or three years to move the plant to LaGrange, and then I would much prefer the using of the above [Park Mills] head."

Mr. Park mentioned in his letter that "I believe it is universally conceded this is the coldest spell of weather ever known in this section. It was 10 degrees below zero by Dr. [Henry Hamilton] Cary's U. S. Government thermometer."

Owner and operator of Park Hotel in LaGrange, and interested in other enterprises, he said, "And to make matters worse, the cold spell has been such a long, continued one. It is thought there

will be no fruit at all. So glad I did not go to the expense of rebudding our Florida orange grove, as they [the groves generally] are all killed again, the papers say."

### Floods at Troup Factory

Following the hard winter of 1898-99, there was a serious flooding of the Flat Shoals Creek in February, 1900. The *LaGrange Reporter* stated on February 16, 1900 that "High water is doing considerable damage at Troup Factory. The first floor is flooded. Water is nine feet higher than ever known. Considerable loss to owner."

The first floor of the Troup Factory was a shipping and packing operation, with some storage and machinery. It was reported that this floor was "completely submerged, a lot of machinery and several thousand yards of sheeting being under water. The new engine [for steam power] which was recently put in position, is completely under water. The loss to Mr. L. M. Park, who owns the factory, will be considerable."

Weather for the next year or so continued to plague the Troup Factory-Park Mills venture. On March 7, 1902 the *LaGrange Reporter* headlined an article "Troup Factory Wet," and "Mr. Park Has Some Lively Experiences with Floods and Appreciates His Neighbors."

Our special reporter has just had an interview with Mr. L. M. Park. He has been waterbound on the other side [east side from LaGrange] of Flat Shoals Creek.

The paper noted that "Perhaps the longest and most expensive bridge in the county spans the creek at Troup Factory." It was a wooden, covered bridge and the "unprecedented flood" of February 27, 1902 washed it away. During the high water, a total of 921 feet of covered bridges were swept away by the floods, it was reported, including Troup Factory's, Perry's, Alford's and O'Neal's.

A mill dam built by James O. Perry near Troup Factory in 1886 was wrecked. Allen Davidson's mill on Turkey Creek was ruined and the dam washed away. There was similar damage throughout the Troup County area.

Mr. Park spoke of it all as "It has been slightly moist down our way." Since his ownership of Troup Factory, he had experienced "eight or nine" floods. He was frank to say that he had had "water enough, if all had debouched into the mouth of Sheol [hell], to put the fires entirely out!"

The reporter said "He tells a good joke gotten off accidentally by one of his neighbors." The neighbor learned that the bridge across Flat Shoals Creek, totally wrecked except for a few straggling heavy timbers clinging to the rock piers, could be crossed by "foot passers" after the high water subsided, but at peril of falling into the swift waters. He said to Mr. Park, "Well, Mr. Park, the Lord does some good things, don't He?" Immediately seeing he had "slipped his trolley," the new turn of the century expression for the old "put his foot in it," he tried in vain to rectify by saying, "Oh, He does a great many good things."

It is refreshing to hear Mr. Park tell of how noble Mr. Billy Young sent two of his hands, Dr. Hardy two, and Col. Traylor six, and the last has come and spent a day in helping him out of the miserable slush caused by the flood. He says country people are the cleverest on earth [colloquially, most good-natured, most neighborly] and those mentioned head the list.

Among other news items, he tells, is Mr. Blue Hardy had the end of his barn knocked out by lightning, but strange to relate was not set on fire. Although it struck in a few feet of a bed of hogs, not one was hit nor a single mule hurt.

### Troup Factory Moved to LaGrange

The flood of 1902 was a turning point in the destiny of Troup Factory. The Park interests determined to go ahead with their plans for moving the factory to LaGrange. It was announced in the *LaGrange Reporter* for September 5, 1902: "Park Mills Coming. The Troup Factory Being Moved to LaGrange."

LaGrange's fourth cotton factory is to be put up in a short time. It was stated in the *Reporter* last week that Troup Factory would likely come to LaGrange, although the owners had several other points under consideration.

Ground is being broken for the foundations of the cotton mill, which will be located in the Longley pasture in front of the residence of Mr. R. P. Abraham. The machinery is being hauled to LaGrange as fast as possible.

Thus LaGrange grows. It is a coming city. The *Reporter* welcomes this new manufacturing plant and its promoters to LaGrange and wishes them every success.

At this time, the three other "cotton factories" of LaGrange were LaGrange Mills, built 1888; Dixie Cotton Mills, incorporated 1895, and Unity Mills, built 1900.

While the Park family operated the Troup Factory they lived for two or three years in the old home of Thomas Leslie. When the factory was dismantled, they moved to LaGrange.

#### **A Tribute to the Confederacy**

Mr. Park, ever an outstanding and colorful Troup County citizen, made a notable and exciting contribution to the LaGrange Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy, in 1902. The Georgia convention of the Daughters was held in LaGrange that year.

The *LaGrange Graphic* stated on October 28, 1902 that "Lemuel M. Park gives \$100.00 Toward the Confederate Monument to be Unveiled Thursday."

Much effort of the U. D. C. organization went into the solicitation of funds in the South and the erection of monuments to the valor of the Confederacy and to the honor of the aging Confederate Veterans. Nearly every town or city at one time had a marble or granite commemorative shaft or pedestal with a sculptured soldier atop it, with appropriate inscriptions.

The LaGrange Chapter had experienced difficulty in raising enough funds. Mr. Park, a fast moving and determined man, sent them word he would give the ladies \$25.00 if they would build the monument, "even if the shaft was put in a swamp, but \$100.00 if they would build it on the court house square." The monument was unveiled on the square during the convention!

#### **Park Mills**

Park Mills, successors to Troup Factory, were listed in *Dockham's Textile Directory* for 1901. The officials named were L. M. Park, President, H. P. Park, Secretary, Edwin Lang, General Manager and Buyer, and William Houston, Superintendent.

The 52, 36 inch looms and 1,600 ring spindles of old Troup Factory operated again, with water power from Flat Shoals Creek and steam power from the boiler. Products were duck, sheetings, shirtings and drills. Yarns were offered in sizes 6's to 20's, single and plied.

James Freeman Brown Company, New York, were selling agents for Park Mills.

A similar listing was in the *American Textile Directory* for 1901-02, except that the 14 cards, one water wheel and one boiler were added.

The *American Textile Directory* for 1902-03 gives about the same information on "Park Mills (Troup Factory) L. M. Park & Sons." Edwin Lang was then manager of the mill.

#### **Park Cotton Mills, Inc.**

An application and petition for charter of a new corporation, Park Cotton Mills, Inc., was made on October 9, 1902 in the name of Howard P. Park and Henry B. Park, for 20 years. The object of the Park Cotton Mills was to "manufacture and finish, dye any goods of cotton or other fibrous material." The capital stock, all paid in, was \$20,000. Walter G. Park was attorney for the petitioners.

The work of constructing the mill building began in the summer of 1902 and by December was "progressing rapidly" at the site near the conjunction of Hill and Greenville streets, LaGrange. It was expected that the mill would give employment to a "large number of operatives."

Machinery and equipment from Troup Factory were hauled to LaGrange on wagons. The steep hills leading to LaGrange, especially the two high hills up which the road came from the Flat Shoals Creek level at the mill site, gave the drivers "fits" and the multi-teamed mules and horses a hard task. It was a dramatic trek, the hauling away of an era, not yet forgotten in the Troup Factory-Pleasant Grove community.

*Dockham's Textile Directory* for 1911-12 lists Park Cotton Mills, Inc., LaGrange, Georgia, incorporated 1902. Howard P. Park was president and treasurer. The mill operated with steam power. No dyeing was done.

A. D. Julliard & Company, a famous Worth Street, New York, textile selling house, were selling agents for Park Cotton Mills, Inc. The mill operated until about 1925, then went out of business. There is nothing of the mill at the site now.

#### **Troup Factory in 1971**

At Troup Factory, in 1971, Flat Shoals Creek rushes through a broken section in the middle of the high and still sturdy rock dam. Water power, once used, is abundantly evident and untamed.

There are ruins of the rock picker room building and a small storage building of rock near the east bank of the creek. The walls of these ruins can be seen from the present highway and bridge.



The present bridge across Flat Shoals Creek was built a little farther upstream from the rock piers of the former bridge. The old covered bridge spanned the creek from a site nearer the rock foundations of the Troup Factory Store on the west side.

Neighboring people own the lands here and delight in reminiscing about the place. Lemuel Madison Park would call them still the "cleverest" on earth!

Maxey Brooks, James Madison Creed Robertson and Thomas Leslie brought Troup Factory to life and usefulness by the side of Flat Shoals Creek. The factory's products became nationally known for quality. Troup Factory people put a little of themselves into every yard of cloth!

Troup Factory is a place of pioneers, not only of the wilderness, but of card, spindle and loom.

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*Author's Note:*

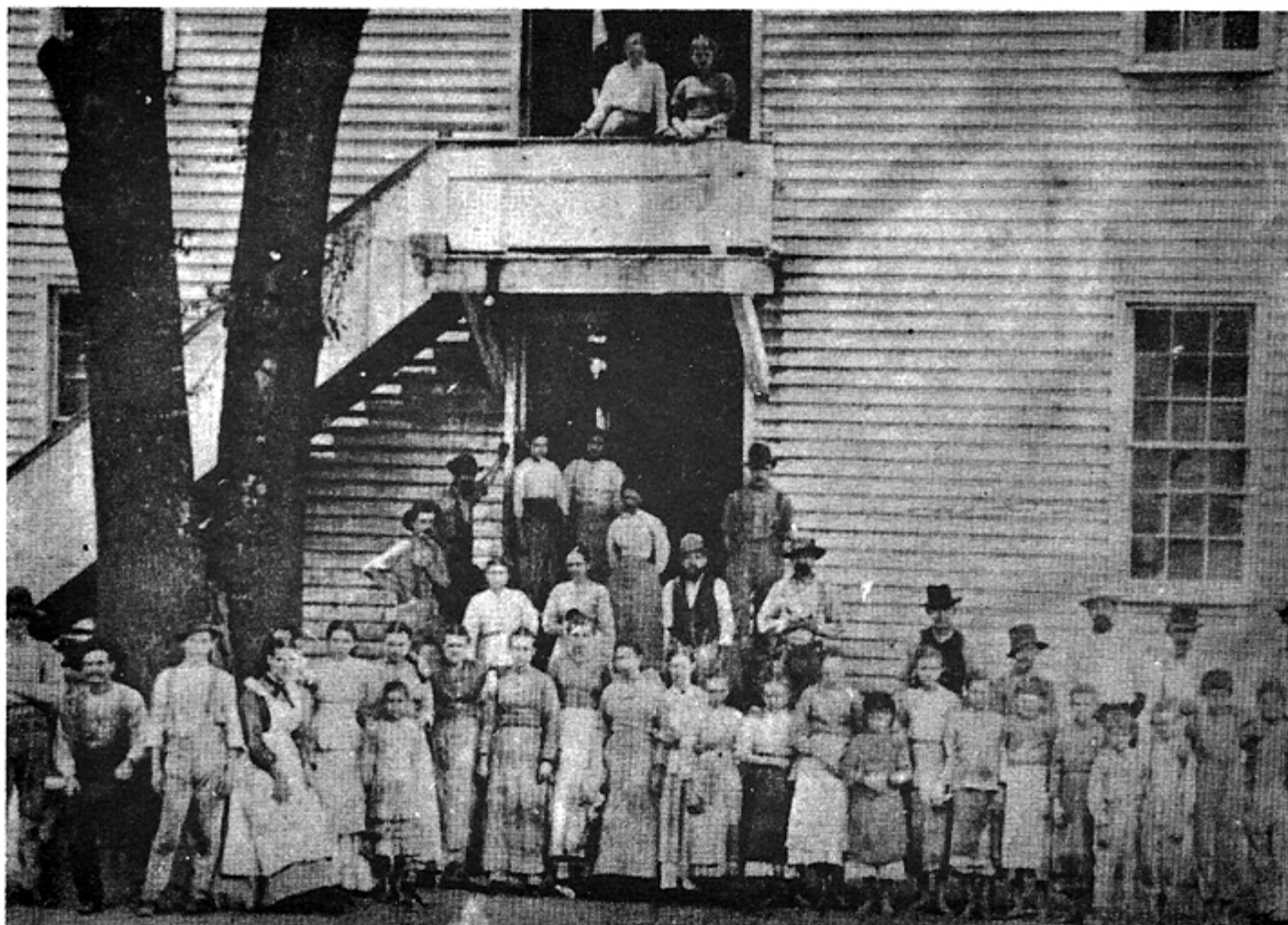
In July, 1970, construction began on a "new ultra-modern terry towel Jacquard weaving plant" near Troup Factory in the Rough Edge District, Troup County. Deering Milliken, Inc., a giant in textiles, who bought the former Callaway Mills of LaGrange, is building the plant. Textile manufacturing has come back to Troup Factory!

## Troup Factory People

### Operatives and Neighbors

For at least 55 years, beginning about 1847, in and around the village of Troup Factory, Troup County, Georgia lived people in mill houses who perhaps cultivated only a few rows of the commoner vegetables for their table. Nearly everything else came from the mill commissary or "company store."

Others worked small farms or patches along with their employment at Troup Factory, a pioneer Georgia cotton mill. It was a place to make "hard money," a scarce commodity in an agricultural community where often farming was slow, crops poor and outlook for a living not promising.



TROUP FACTORY OPERATIVES — The little girl third from the left is Catherine McGee White, daughter of Superintendent Robert Southwell White. She was told not to come down to the mill that day but "ran away" from home to be in the picture! Her indulgent father, Mr. White, is identified by his vest and heavy watch chain. From a photograph of SOUTHERN VIEWS, Corless Collection, and courtesy of Hugh Campbell, LaGrange, Ga.

Troup Factory people, operatives, friends and neighbors, perhaps did the best they could for the times and opportunities coming their way. A remarkably stable labor population, children grew up, married and lived out their lives with loyalty to the factory management.

The people of Troup Factory were almost exclusively of Caucasian stock, from the hills and farms of Troup County, Meriwether County, other counties of Georgia and states of the Southeast and East.

Cottages were built by the Troup Factory management on its property and rented to the operatives. Mill village houses clustered on a hillside facing Flat Shoals Creek to the west. The factory on the creek bank was four stories high. In its cupola, a bell called the people to work, rang out "dinner time" and quitting time. *The Georgia Industrial Census* of 1876 stated that 100 operatives were employed in the manufacture of Osnaburgs, checks, yarns and other products. The population of Troup Factory was 250.

The Troup Factory Store, or commissary, was a commodious building of rock, containing a variety of general merchandise for those who did not wish to go ten miles away to LaGrange to trade. It served not only the Troup Factory people but farmers and planters of Troup and Meriwether counties in the area.

Troup Factory, Georgia was a post office, established in 1847. Thomas Leslie, a partner in Robertson, Leslie & Company, owners and operators of Troup Factory, was the first postmaster. The company erected a building to be used as a church, and school for the children of the operatives.



ROBERT SOUTHWELL WHITE (1841-1905)  
Superintendent of Troup Factory for many years. Mr. White is remembered by his daughter, Mrs. W. A. Emory, as "a natural born mechanic." He posed for this photograph with a wrench in his left hand!

Employment at Troup Factory bolstered the life of the people with a security better than those with their existence tied completely to small farm agriculture. As operatives, neighbors and friends they had a tight life of interests making them the envy of some and scorn of others. Those who possessed the rudimentary education and advantages of typical and scant country schooling were fortunate. Men, women and children fitted with a creditable ease into the demands of a new day — factory life next to a farm.

There are many descendants of these unusual and dauntless people, the operatives and neighbors of Troup Factory.

Names listed here are from the United States Census of 1850. Numbers preceding the names are the numbers assigned by the census taker, the first indicating "Dwelling Houses Numbered in the Order of Visitation," and the second, "Families Numbered in the Order of Visitation." Usually, the two numbers are the same.

It was necessary for the census taker to list the "Name of every person whose usual place of abode on the first day of June, 1850 was in this family," by age, sex, color (white, black or mulatto), and "Profession, occupation or trade of each male person over 15 years of age," the value of "Real Estate Owned, Place of Birth (State, Territory or Country)," and other data not extracted.

All were white with few exceptions. The names of the heads of families have been rearranged alphabetically instead of in order listed by the census taker.

TROUP FACTORY AND ENVIRONS IN 1850

53-53	Adams, Hinion	29 M	Overseer in factory		Ga.
"	Elizabeth	24 F			"
"	Mary A.	4 F			"
"	Nancy A.	3 F			"
"	Martha A.	2 F			"
"	Warren T.	1 M			"
30-30	Booker, Leroy	34 M	Teacher	\$1,550.	"
"	Elizabeth A.	17 F			"
"	Emma	9/12			"
	Marcus, M. B.	18	Clerk		"
39-39	Boswell, Dempsey	45 M	Grosser (sic)		N.C.
86-86	Brewer, George	46 M	Carpenter		Ga.
"	Penelope	35 F			N.C.
"	Nathaniel C.	11 M			Ga.
"	Alfred	9 M			"
"	Martha E.	7 F			"
"	Hilliard	6 M			"
"	Statira	5 F			"
"	Georgia A.	3 F			"
67-67	Brooks, Maxey	59 M	Millwright	\$12,000.	"
"	Lucy	39 F			"
"	Emiline	19 F			"
"	Rodum M.	17 M	Millwright		"
"	Robert H.	15 M	Farmer		"
"	James M.	14 M			"
"	Thomas S.	11 M			"
"	Louisa A. J.	9 F			"
"	Rebecca A.	7 F			"
"	Lazarus B.	8 M			"
"	Babe	1/12 M			"
70-70	Buck, Absalom	61 M	Farmer	\$2,000.	N.C.
"	Christian	19 F			"
"	James	17 M	Farmer		Ga.
"	John	13 M			"
"	Louisa	11 F			"
"	Absalom	10 M			"
"	Clementine	6 F			"
54-54	Buckhanon, B. B.	22 M	Factory Hand		"
"	Julia A.	18 F			"
	Hill, F. Berry	16 M	Factory Hand		"
42-42	Crosby, James A.	23 M	Supt. Factory		Fla.
"	Martha	63 F			S.C.
"	Mary	29 F			"
"	Henry	4 M			Ga.
34-34	Dallis, H. W.	30 M	Farmer	\$1,600.	"
"	Martha M.	21 F			"
"	Leslie W.	2 M			"
"	Infant	5/12			"
	Hamner, William	26 M	Physician		"
"	Mary	20 F			"
55-55	Darrah, William	50 M	Factory Hand		N.Y.
"	Nancy	40 F			Ga.
"	Clementine	12 F			"
"	Hiram	9 F			"
"	Saffrona	6 F			"
37-37	Day, William H.	31 M	Well Digger		N.H.
"	Mary E.	26 F			Ga.
"	William F.	7 M			"
"	Thomas J.	5 M			"
"	Mary A.	3 F			"



35-35	Earp, Lewellyn	49 M	Farmer	\$600.	S.C.
"	Cristina	47 F			"
"	Caleb	21 M	Farmer		"
"	James	19 M	Farmer		"
"	Mary	15 F			"
"	Margaret	14 F			Ga.
"	Martha	12 F			Ala.
	Fortner, Franklin	17 M	Farmer		S.C.
"	Eliza	12 F			"
"	Jacob	10 M			Ga.
"	Frances R.	8 F			"
"	Thomas	4 M			"
"	Elizabeth	2 F			"
38-38	Fulghum, Anna	45 F		\$300.	"
"	Thomas	23 M	Farmer		"
"	Martha	21 F			"
"	Moses	18 M	Farmer		"
"	John	16 M	Farmer		"
"	Elizabeth	5 F			"
	Peters, Larkey	78 F			Va.
64-64	Fuller, Bryant	40 M	Farmer	\$600.	N.C.
"	Elizabeth	55 F			"
"	Washington	20 M	Farmer		"
"	John	18 M	Farmer		"
"	Sarah	16 F			"
"	Eliza	14 F			"
"	James	12 M			Ga.
"	Green	10 M			"
"	Jackson	8 M			"
62-62	Fuller, C.	75 M		\$200.	N.C.
"	Martha	50 F			"
33-33	Gates, Charles	29 M	Farmer	\$1,800.	Ga.
"	Nancy	17 F			"
"	Frances	2 F			"
"	James	1 M			"
"	William	1/2 M			"
69-69	Glanton, Samuel	22 M	Farmer	\$600.	S.C.
"	Elizabeth	16 F			Ga.
60-60	Greer, William	71 M	Farmer	\$3,000.	"
"	Susan	45 F			"
	Hughes, Fanny	28 F	(Mulatto)		"
"	Simon	85 M			Va.
46-46	Griggs, Rodum	21 M	Cabinet Maker		Ga.
"	Elizabeth	18 F			S.C.
"	William	5/12 M			Ga.
71-71	Hardy, James	52 M	Farmer	\$2,000.	S.C.
"	Ann E.	41 F			Ga.
"	John G.	22 M	Tax Collector		"
"	William	18 M	Farmer		"
"	James	15 M	Farmer		"
"	Tava A. E.	13 F			"
"	Thomas	10 M			"
"	Eliza	7 F			"
"	Martha	5 M			"
"	Lewis M.	3 M			"
"	Barbara A.	1 F			"
87-87	Hardy, William A.	24 M		\$7,000.	S.C.
"	Naomi	18 F			Ga.
"	Susan F.	1 F			"
65-65	Hill, Green	45 M	Farmer	\$700.	N.C.
"	Frances	40 F			"
"	William	20 M	Farmer		"
"	Elizabeth	18 F			"
"	Julia A.	16 F			"
"	Thomas	14 M			Ga.
"	John	12 M			"

48-48	Hill, John	62 M	Farmer	\$400.	Ga.
"	Elizabeth	58 F			"
"	Frances	38 F			"
"	James	32 M	Miller		"
"	Eliza	26 F			"
"	Aaron	23 M	Factory Hand		"
"	Martha	23 F			"
"	Elijah	21 M	Factory Hand		"
"	Mary A.	18 F			"
"	Rosa	8 F			"
"	Wiley	6 M			"
	Streeter, Jane	16 F			"
"	Mahala	13 F			"
"	James	12 M			"
"	Emiline	10 F			"
"	John	8 M			"
57-57	Holley, Edestha	60 F			Ga.
"	Elizabeth	36 F			"
"	Silas	13 M			"
56-56	Holley, T. J.	34 M	Supt. Factory		"
"	Caroline	25 F			S.C.
"	Thomas P.	4 M			Ga.
"	Francis	4 M			"
44-44	Jones, H. B.	50 M	Day Laborer	\$80.	"
"	Martha	48 F			"
"	Susanah	21 F			"
"	Louisa	19 F			"
"	Elizabeth	17 F			"
"	James	16 M	Factory Hand		"
"	Martha	15 F			"
"	George W.	14 M			"
"	Peter	12 M			"
"	Hiram	10 M			"
"	Mary	8 F			"
"	Lydia	6 F			"
"	Cicero	2 M			"
"	Thomas	1 M			"
51-51	Johnson, Mary	50 F			N.C.
"	Bersheba	20 F			Ga.
"	Auguston	17 M	Factory Hand		"
"	Catherine	16 F			"
"	Mary J.	13 F			"
	Wright, Catherine	22 F			S.C.
58-58	Leslie, Thomas	36 M	Merchant	\$2,000.	Ga.
"	Louisa V.	34 F			"
"	Catherine	13 F			"
"	Anderson	12 M			"
"	Robert	10 M			"
"	Elizabeth	8 F			"
"	Sarah	6 F			"
"	Thomas	4 M			"
"	Janett	2 F			"
	Robertson, S. W.	29 M	Clerk		S.C.
40-40	McKigney, B.	48 M	Clerk		Ga.
"	Isabel	39 F			"
"	Martha E.	19 F			"
"	Elizabeth A.	17 F			"
"	Mary A.	15 F			"
"	William	12 M			"
"	Franklin	10 M			"
"	Frances P.	8 F			"
"	Henry M.	5 M			"
"	Caroline	2 F			"
41-41	Mattox, John A.	52 M			Maryland
"	Elizabeth	46 F			Ga.
"	Sarah	24 F			"

Mattox, Lorrena	19 F			Ga.
" Martha	15 F			"
" Frances	13 F			"
" Emily	12 F			"
" Arpsey	9 F			"
" Minori	7 F			"
" John	5 M			"
43-43 Mayberry, L.	40 M	Well Digger		N.C.
" Martha	48 F			"
" Sarah E.	17 F			Ga.
" William	14 F			"
" Martha	13 F			"
" Lucinda F.	11 F			"
" Solomon P.	9 M			"
36-36 Perry, Thomas A.	25 M	Mechanic		S.C.
" Permelia J.	24 F			"
" Julia A.	3 F			Ga.
" James O. A.	1 M			"
" John T. W.	6/12 M			"
50-50 Pilkerton, B.	65 M	Farmer		N.C.
" Elizabeth	49 F			"
Smith, James J.	19 M	Factory Hand		Ga.
" Green W.	16 M	Factory Hand		"
" Franklin	13 M			"
Culberson, James	19 M	Factory Hand		"
Hill, Louisa	25 F			"
" William	19 M	Factory Hand		"
59-59 Ragland, A. M.	42 M	Farmer	\$5,000.	N.C.
" Elizabeth A.	32 F			Ga.
" William	14 M			"
" Bernel R.	8 M			"
" Delia A.	4 F			"
" Sarah	9/12			"
Hanvy, O. N.	21	Overseer		S.C.
47-47 Roberds, Wiley	32 M	Farmer	\$1,300.	S.C.
" Sarah	32 F			"
" Frances	11 F			"
" William P.	9 M			"
" Amanda	7 F			"
" George W.	5 M			"
" John T.	1 M			"
61-61 Scott, George L.	59 M	Farmer	\$1,600.	Va.
88-88 Sellers, H.	45 M	Mechanic		S.C.
" Elizabeth	25 F			Ga.
" Elizabeth	11 F			"
" John	11 M			"
" Jane	9 F			"
" William	5 M			"
45-45 Sharp, Jesse	55 M	Blacksmith		N.C.
" Elizabeth	52 F			S.C.
" Mary A.	21 F			"
" Mahala	20 F			"
" Martha	19 F			"
68-68 Sledge, E. H.	34 F		\$2,000.	Ga.
" Rebecca A.	17 F			"
" Anne W.	13 F			"
" John W.	11 M			"
" Nathaniel	10 M			"
" Robert H.	8 M			"
" Elizabeth M.	6 F			"
" Milton M.	2 M			"
Gaylor, M.	27 M	Overseer		"
32-32 Sledge, John	33 M	Farmer		"
" Jane S.	31 F			"



31-31	Sledge, Mins	28 M	Farmer	\$500.	Ga.
"	Rebecca	30 F			"
"	Susan G.	8 F			"
"	Nathaniel M.	5 M			"
	Lundy, L. A.	20 F			"
52-52	Smith, Lane	22 M	Factory Hand		"
"	Emeline	20 F			S.C.
"	Sarah E.	3 F			Ga.
"	Mary J.	8/12			"
66-66	Thornton, H.	44 M	Millwright	\$300.	"
"	Matilda	40 F			"
"	Franklin	19 M	Farmer		"
"	John	15 M	Farmer		"
"	Diza	13 F			"
"	Elizabeth	11 F			"
"	Martha	9 F			"
"	Josiah	7 M			"
"	Charles	5 M			"
"	Sarah J.	3 F			"
	Crosby, Edmund	29 M	Machinist	\$120.	S.C.
"	Amanda	18 F			Ga.
49-49	Welborn, Sarah	48 F		\$450.	N.C.
"	Nancy	22 F			Ga.
"	Elizabeth	20 F			"
"	Martha A.	19 F			"
"	James	18 M	Factory Hand		"
"	William	13 M			"
"	Cenia	7 F			"
"	Eliza	5 F			"
"	Frances	1 F			"
63-63	Wright, John	41 M	Shoemaker		N.C.
"	Sarah	28 F			Ga.
"	Caroline	19 F			"
"	Mourning	17 F			"
"	Loyd	14 M			"
"	Tabitha	12 F			"
"	John	10 M			"
"	McDonald	6 M			"
"	William	4 M			"
"	Jane	2 F			"
"	Andrew	1 M			"
"	Sarah	17 F			S.C.

### The Census of 1860

In the census of 1860, Troup Factory people are listed as "Factory Operatives." The name of head of household is given, but the census taker generally indicated wives, children and other occupants of the household by first name initials only, with age, sex, color, etc.

The head of the family, or household, and most of the members are shown as "Factory Operatives." It was not unusual for children to be employed along with their parents in early cotton mill jobs. W. D. Pearce was "Supt. of Factory" at this time.

### Families of Factory Operatives

766-702	Arp, James	40 M	Va.	Bowles, F.	17 F	Ga.
"	India	28 F	Ga.	" H.	16 F	"
"	James	12 M	"	" J.	14 F	"
	Pearce, W. D. (Supt.)	30 M	Va.	" S.	12 F	"
"	Mary A.	25 F	Ga.	" G.	12 F	"
"	George	2 M	"			
"	J. J.	3 F	"	749-685	Bradford, M. S.	39 F
748-684	Bowles, L.	45 M	"	" J.	26 F	"
"	J.	40 F	"	" C.	19 F	"
"	K.	25 F	"	" A.	17 M	"
"	E.	22 F	"	" C.	14 M	"
"	L. S.	19 M	"	" K.	11 M	"
"	J. E.	20 M	"	" G.	9 M	"

755-691 Clarke, E.	22 F	"	" G.	14 M	"
" M.	21 F	"	" H. S.	11 F	"
" H.	19 F	"	780-714 McKinley, John (Mechanic)	56 M	N.C.
" T.	10 M	"	" R.	48 F	S.C.
" O.	13 F	"	" Mary	19 F	Ga.
763-699 Gilbert, Frances	50 F	Va.	" F.	17 F	"
" G.	75 M	"	" William	14 M	"
" H.	20 F	"	" John	11 M	"
" M.	16 M	"	759-695 Morgan, Harriet	50 F	"
" N. S.	14 M	"	" H.	22 M	"
750-686 Hill, E. G.	30 M	Ga.	" Z.	19 F	"
" M.	30 F	"	" D.	12 M	"
" M. E.	6 F	"	" E.	9 M	"
" G.	11/12 F	"	" Y.	6 M	"
765-701 Hill, William	35 M	Va.	754-690 Owen, William	40 M	"
" E.	30 F	"	" F.	40 F	"
" F.	12 M	"	" H.	20 M	"
" M.	8 F	"	" G. F.	17 M	"
" S.	6 F	"	" A. T.	16 M	"
" E. K.	2 F	"	" A.	10 F	"
752-688 Hinton, John	40 M	Ga.	" H. O.	14 F	"
" M.	35 F	"	" D.	9 F	"
" F.	12 M	"	764-700 Peterson, James	30 M	Va.
" E.	10 M	"	" Mary	29 F	"
" F.	19 M	"	" James	3 M	"
" K.	6 F	"	760-696 Phillips, Nathan	54 M	Ga.
" L.	10 F	"	" F.	40 F	"
" N. E.	8 F	"	" Ruth	20 F	"
" T.	2 F	"	" Rick	22 F	"
758-694 Lambert, S. M.	55 M	Ga.	" S.	21 F	"
" E. R.	54 F	"	" A.	19 M	"
" H. S.	22 M	"	" F.	17 M	"
" Ora	17 F	"	" F.	14 M	"
" D.	14 M	"	" H.	11 F	"
" N.	11 M	"	" N.	9 M	"
" T.	9 M	"	" S.	6 F	"
" Z.	8 F	"	753-689 Phillips, Thomas	50 M	"
751-687 Lee, Mark	35 M	"	" Mary	50 F	"
" H.	40 F	"	" J.	20 M	"
" Wilson G.	21 M	"	" G.	18 M	"
" A.	18 F	"	" F.	17 F	"
" F.	15 F	"	" S.	14 M	"
" H.	12 F	"	" Y.	11 F	"
757-693 McKee, D. K.	45 M	"	" H.	10 F	"
" E. Y.	40 F	"	762-698 Waldrop, Larkin	50 M	Va.
" A.	18 M	"	" E.	40 F	"
" F. F.	14 F	"	" Petra	24 F	"
" G. O.	10 F	"	" E.	21 F	"
756-692 McKigney, B.	55 M	"	" G.	16 F	"
" F.	46 F	"	" F.	13 M	"
" D.	24 M	"	" M.	11 M	"
" S.	17 F	"	" Tom	10 M	"
" N.	14 M	"	761-697 White, E.	50 F	Ga.
" K.	12 F	"	" A.	24 F	"
" G.	10 F	"	" C.	23 M	"
Gray, Jacob	45 M	Ala.	" D.	17 F	"
" T. E.	45 F	"	" H.	16 M	"
" A.	22 M	"	" N.	14 M	"
" F.	18 F	"	" O.	11 F	"
" C.	16 M	"	" D. E.	10 M	"

## Troup Factory Cemeteries

### Troup Factory

#### Troup County, Georgia

On the east side of Flat Shoals Creek, a Troup Factory Cemetery occupies a hill top site with a view to the southeast. It is slightly beyond and behind the village site of Troup Factory, which was on the hillside and faced west and northwesterly towards the mill and creek.

Begun as a burial ground for whites of the community, many Negroes were later buried here.

The cemetery is very near the old roadbed, on the right, where high banks define this early road to Hamilton in Harris County. Paved highway U. S. 27 parallels the old road for part of the distance up the steep incline from the Flat Shoals Bridge.

Cedars, hollies, hardwoods and pine trees grow in the cemetery. Some of the graves, the earliest, are covered with rock tombs. These are built up in the pioneer style, but otherwise unmarked. There are many graves marked only with a rock at head and foot. Only two are now marked with monuments:

ANNIE,  
wife of  
EDMUND DUNCAN  
died July 19, 1879  
Aged 82 years.

In Memory of  
NANCY N. PORTER  
born August 10, 1807  
died March 7, 1884  
*The angels called on  
a summer day.*  
Our Mother

#### Thompson Family Cemetery

The Thompson Family Cemetery is on Hipp property, part way up the hill, on the right of the highway. A strong rock wall surrounds the cemetery, in which stood, until recent years, an enormous cedar tree. There are perhaps three or four graves in the enclosure, with only one marked:

EMELINE BROOKS  
wife of  
JOHN THOMPSON  
was born  
October the 10th 1830  
and died  
August the 27th 1870  
Aged 39 years, 11 months  
& 14 days.

Farewell, Mother, a long  
a last, a sad farewell.  
Long and unbroken will be  
this silent slumber.  
Spring, with its blooming flowers,  
Autumn, with its harvest,  
And Winter, with its stormy winds,  
Will come and go,  
But still wilt thou sleep.  
Farewell, Mother

#### Leslie Family Cemetery

On Corless property, near and to the left of the highway, and about half way up the hill, is the Leslie Family Cemetery. The old road wound up the steep incline and since the highway was laid in a straighter route, part of the curve of the old road is on the left side.

This is the family burying ground laid off by Thomas Leslie, partner with James Madison Creed Robertson in the Troup Factory. It is a plot about forty by fifty feet, surrounded by a rock wall. The monuments are fallen. Thomas Leslie, Jr., is buried here.

In Memory of  
THOS. LESLIE, JR.  
born November 12, 1846  
died June 22, 1864  
*Many fond hopes lie buried here.*  
Our Little  
EVA,  
died January 28, 1867  
Aged 12½ months  
A. & V. A. LESLIE

Our Dear Little  
JULIA,  
9 Years Old  
1872  
*Sleep on, sweet one,  
and take thy rest.  
God called thee home,  
He thought it best.*  
A. & V. A. LESLIE

Infant Son of  
L. W. & L. L. DALLIS  
born August 19th 1874  
died September 30th 1874

The "Infant Son" was the child of Leslie Wellington Dallis and wife, Louisa Leslie Dallis, daughter of Thomas Leslie.

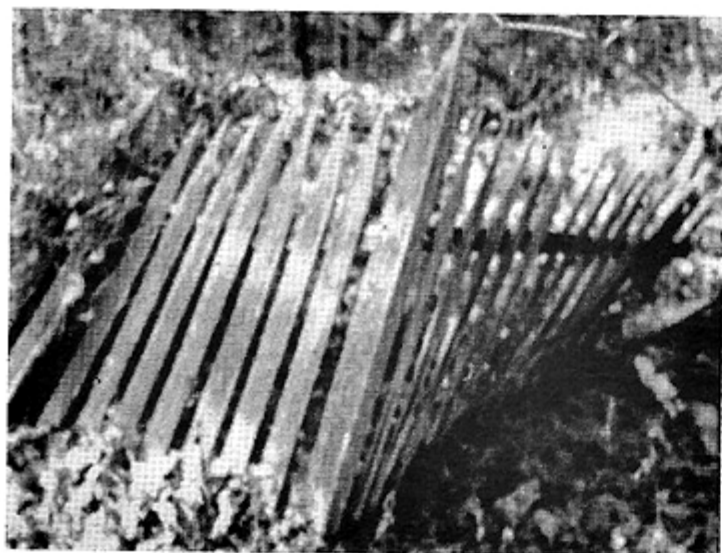


Eva and Julia Leslie were the daughters of Anderson and Virginia Reid Leslie. The father was a merchant at Troup Factory, whose name appears in the 1860 census. He was then aged 22 and his wife 18. He was a son of Thomas Leslie and was associated with his father in the Troup Factory general merchandise store.

Thomas Leslie and his wife, Mrs. Louisa Villiers Anderson Leslie, are buried in the Crowder Family Cemetery, at Mark Hall Plantation, Meriwether County, Georgia.

### Troup Factory Cemetery

What is now known as the Troup Factory Cemetery is on the west side of Flat Shoals Creek, on a high hill. It is about a quarter of a mile to the left off U. S. 27 South, and to the right off the unpaved Hardy Road. There is a sign "Troup Factory Cemetery," at the roadside.



OLD PICKET FENCE AROUND GRAVE  
*The grave itself is not otherwise marked.*

Some old graves here, containing probably the earliest burials at Troup Factory, are surrounded by rock walls. Several are covered by box-like tombs of rock. Others have locally quarried stone slabs, on rock bases, no inscriptions.

One unknown grave has head and foot markers of old, weathered heart pine. Another is surrounded by the remains of a wooden picket fence, very old, and held together by its mortise and tenon joints. The grave in this enclosure is unmarked. Many graves are marked only with a stone at head and foot, as in the Troup Factory Cemetery on the east side of Flat Shoals Creek.

The cemetery is in a grove of cedars, hollies, hardwoods and pines. *Vinca minor* ground cover is everywhere, a shiny, green carpet under the trees.

### Graves of the Perry Family

A very large oak tree shades the graves of Thomas A. and Permelia J. Earp Perry. There are two monuments, one a marble headstone carrying joint data and the other a lead colored metallic slab surmounted by an obelisk, also with data. An unmarked child's grave is near the Perry graves.

The various inscriptions on the graves of Thomas A. and Permelia J. Earp Perry are as follows:

PERMELIA J. EARP  
born June 10, 1825  
married to  
T. A. PERRY  
January 18, 1844  
died  
December 6, 1882  
Aged 57 years,  
5 months  
& 26 days.  
*Our Mother*

THOMAS A. PERRY  
born February 6, 1825  
married to P. J. EARP  
January 18, 1844  
died December 29, 1890  
(Masonic Emblem)  
*We will meet again.  
We remember you still.  
We loved her.  
My wife.  
Gone to rest.*

Thomas A. Perry was 25 years of age in the census of 1850. He was a mechanic at Troup Factory. He was born in South Carolina, as was his wife, Mrs. Permelia J. Earp Perry. He also operated a tanyard and blacksmith shop.

Thomas Allen Perry and Permelia Jane Earp were married on January 18, 1844 [as inscribed on their tombstones], in Floyd County, Georgia. Mr. Perry married (2) Mrs. Martha Ann (Earp) Hegler, born January 15, 1837.

In 1845, the lands of Lewellyn Earp, father of Mrs. Permelia Jane Earp Perry, were sold at public auction by the sheriff of Floyd County. The place was sold on a fi. fa. on an unsatisfied judgment against him. The highest bidder paid \$150.00.

Within the next year or so, the Earps and Perrys moved to Troup Factory, Troup County, Georgia, about the time Troup Factory was built. Lewellyn Earp lived next to his son-in-law at Troup Factory, as indicated in the 1850 census of Troup County.

John Thomas Perry (1849-1925), of LaGrange, Georgia was the third son of Thomas Allen and Permelia Jane Earp Perry. He married Artemesia Morris (1849-1919), sixth child of the Rev. Ivey



TOMBSTONE OF THOMAS A. PERRY (1825-1890)  
Photographed in January, 1969. The tombstone appears to have been broken by vandals. Mr. Perry was a mechanic at Troup Factory in 1850, and later in sawmilling, cotton ginning, woodworking and tanyard operations.



GRAVE OF MRS. THOMAS A. PERRY (1825-1882)  
Née Permelia J. Earp, married to Thomas A. Perry on January 18, 1844 [the date is recorded on Mr. Perry's tombstone also]. The slab is cast grey metal. It is surmounted by a cast grey metal obelisk. Another tombstone is leaning against the obelisk.

Brittain Morris (1818-1888), and wife, Mrs. Mary Joyce Christian Morris (1814-1862). The Rev. and Mrs. Morris are buried at Clapp's Cemetery, near Columbus, Georgia. The Rev. Morris married twice after his first wife's death.

The Rev. Morris was born in Elbert County, Georgia in 1818, and died in Phenix City, Alabama. He married Mary Joyce Christian on March 3, 1839 in Meriwether County, Georgia, with the Rev. W. D. Mathews officiating. She was born in Madison County, Georgia in 1814 and died in 1862 at Flat Rock, Alabama.

The Rev. Morris was a Methodist minister, a "circuit rider" of the early days of Methodism in Georgia and East Alabama. He was the only child of Joseph Morris (1793-1854), of Wilkes County, Georgia, and wife, Mrs. Nancy Allgood Morris (1781-1865).

Descendants of the family of the Rev. Morris still live in Langdale, Chambers County, Alabama.

#### Prather Family Plot

The Prather Family Plot in the Troup Factory Cemetery is surrounded by a modern metal fence. The graves are:

S. H. PRATHER  
born September 19, 1865  
died May 25, 1905  
*Thy Will Be Done*

W. G. PRATHER  
born March 25, 1893  
died July 1, 1947  
*Gone but Not Forgotten*  
and  
WILLIAM GRADY PRATHER  
Alabama  
PFC 117 Field Artillery  
31st Div.  
World War I  
died July 1, 1947

CLEVELAND,  
son of  
S. H. & EMMA PRATHER  
born October 25, 1891  
died October 20, 1897

TERRELL,  
son of  
S. H. & EMMA PRATHER  
born October 22, 1903  
died June 8, 1904

Other marked graves in the Troup Factory Cemetery are:

ROBERT S. WHITE  
Co. K  
37 Ga. Militia  
C.S.A.

BUNK BORDERS  
1866-1935  
and  
KATE BORDERS  
1872-1912

Robert S. White was the superintendent of Troup Factory for many years. He was born November 1, 1841 and died January 11, 1905.

### Perry Family Cemetery

Beyond the Troup Factory Cemetery, a hundred yards or so, the road forks to the right and left. About half a mile down the right fork, at dead end now, is the site of the old home of Thomas A. and Permelia J. Earp Perry. Near it is Perry Family Cemetery of James Oliver Perry, their son. It is surrounded by a rock wall of excellent proportions and workmanship. The several graves here are:

JAMES OLIVER PERRY  
Co. K  
37 Ga. Militia  
C.S.A.  
ANNA E.,  
wife of  
JAMES OLIVER PERRY  
[not marked]  
IRB and CLARA WRIGHT  
[not marked]  
ETTA WRIGHT  
[not marked]  
Twin Infants  
[not marked]

THOMAS K.,  
son of  
J. O. & A. E. PERRY  
born September 26, 1887  
died May 6, 1888  
Infant Son of  
J. O. & A. E. PERRY  
born and died  
March 3, 1885  
LILLY PERRY  
[not marked]  
Child's grave  
[not marked]

The road here originally led to the Perry Cotton Gin and Grist Mill erected by James Oliver Perry on Perry Creek, a half mile or more from the family cemetery.

## Traylor-White-Hardy-Thompson House

### Troup Factory

### Troup County, Ga.

Robert B. Traylor came from Virginia in the early days of settlement of Troup County. He had a brother, John N. Traylor, who wrote of him:

I most assuredly had a model brother. Through a long life he was ever my friend, a clean, strong-souled, high-minded man, one of nature's noblemen, a credit to his worthy forbears.

Another brother, John Humphrey Traylor (1824-1907), born in Virginia, came to Troup County in 1842 and married Mary Elizabeth Bailey (1823-1903), in 1844. She was the daughter of Colonel Charles Cabaniss Bailey (1790-1864), and wife, Mrs. Martha Hairston Rowland Bailey (1785-1872).

Colonel Bailey built "Forest Home," a handsome Greek Revival plantation house, for his daughter, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Traylor, in 1851. It is now the Parham home, Rosemont, at Rosemont Community near Troup Factory, on U. S. 27. See the author's *Pine Log and Greek Revival*.

The home built by Robert B. Traylor at Troup Factory, probably about 1845, was a story and a half type. Four main rooms on the first floor had a central hallway with stairs leading to the two upper bedrooms. The kitchen and dining rooms were separated from the house, probably by a dog-trot.

Sills under the Traylor-White-Hardy-Thompson House are about twelve inches square, hand hewn. They are put together with wooden pegs to hold the mortise and tenon joints. This method is also used in the framing of the house.

In the back yard, the original Traylor smokehouse still stands. The beams from which once hung hams and other meats are joined and pegged into upright members of the framing.

Robert B. Traylor, builder of the original portion of the Traylor-White-Hardy-Thompson House, was born in Henry County, Virginia on September 1, 1816. He married Celia R. Mullins January 24, 1838. She was born June 2, 1819 and died June 16, 1887.

Mr. Traylor was a Troup County commissioner for the years 1878-86. He died July 16, 1893.



A son of Mr. and Mrs. Traylor, John C. Traylor, moved to Texas. He later became mayor of Dallas. His daughter was married to Judge John C. Robertson of Dallas.

After the death of Robert B. Traylor, his home and farm were bought by Robert Southwell White, superintendent of the Troup Factory on nearby Flat Shoals Creek. Mr. White and family then lived in the "Superintendent's House," the old home of Thomas Leslie. James Madison Creed Robertson, of Meriwether County, and Thomas Leslie were partners in the Troup Factory.

Mr. White was very fond of the Traylor place. He intended making it his later home after retirement from Troup Factory. On a hunting and fishing trip to Florida in the 1890's, he pulled up a small magnolia tree, a "mere switch," 18 inches long, from a swamp. He brought it back to Troup Factory and planted it at the Traylor house. It has grown to great size in the left side yard.

The Traylor place was rented by Mr. White to others for several years. He continued to improve the place and planted water oaks and elms along the road to the house.

#### Place Sold to Dr. Hardy

During the ownership of Lemuel Madison Park, the Troup Factory was dismantled and moved to LaGrange in 1902. Mr. White left the community and sold the Traylor place to Dr. John H. Hardy, son of Troup County pioneer James D. Hardy (1819-1888), whose plantation was a few miles from Troup Factory near the present Oak Grove Church.

Dr. John H. Hardy was born February 22, 1864. He married Antoinette Blalock White, born April 9, 1869. She was the daughter of Robert Southwell and Martha Lewis Owen White. Mrs. Hardy died July 22, 1932. Dr. Hardy died May 11, 1942. Mrs. White was born October 1, 1841 and died December 31, 1935.

Dr. Hardy's daughter, Annie Louise Hardy, was born here on November 28, 1900. She was married to John Jackson Hogg of Troup County on May 28, 1922. He was killed in an automobile accident on December 12, 1935. Mrs. Hogg was married to Horace Clinton Thompson in 1937. This has been their home since that time.

Miss Elizabeth White, Mrs. Thompson's aunt, was born at Troup Factory on August 28, 1874 and died March 20, 1951. Her aunt, Catherine McGee White Emory (Mrs. W. A.), is 99 years of age and lives at Long Cane community, Troup County. She was also born at Troup Factory, in 1871.

Mrs. Thompson has a fine leather billfold or pocketbook of James D. Hardy, well tooled and featuring a stag motif. Inside, the original owner wrote in ink, "James D. Hardy, his book, 1841." It contains now only a receipt for Mr. Hardy's 1861 taxes, \$66.15, and taxes for J. C. Hardy, minor, for whom he was guardian, \$9.68 for 1861. Both amounts are signed for by Samuel Johnson, Tax Collector of Troup County.

The house was remodeled in 1918 by Dr. and Mrs. Hardy to about its present appearance. The ceilings were covered in a parquet block pattern of regular four inch flooring, separated by framing, an unusual treatment. In recent years, the Thompsons have paneled the main rooms.

Across the road from the front of this place there was once a church building. Mrs. Hardy's mother told her that people would come to the meetings and



TRAYLOR-WHITE-HARDY-THOMPSON HOUSE

*Original portion of house built by Robert B. Traylor about 1845.*



SMOKEHOUSE

*Front and distinctive overhang of old smokehouse at the Traylor - White - Hardy - Thompson House. Openings for escape of smoke can be seen.*



SLAVERY TIME CABIN AND HOW IT GREW  
Near the Traylor-White-Hardy-Thompson House.

Perry house and cemetery where members of this early Troup Factory family are buried. The Perry cotton gin and mill ruins are on Perry Creek.

The Troup Factory Cemetery is across Hardy Road on the east from the Thompson home.

John Harold Hardy, brother of Mrs. Thompson, was born at the home on March 5, 1899. He was a well known warden of Troup County and died on October 8, 1933. He owned the more than 900 acres of land in the Troup Factory enterprise sold by Lemuel Madison Park after the factory was moved to LaGrange. Following Mr. Hardy's death, the land was sold to various owners, among them Charles Warren Corless, Jr., who bought lands surrounding the factory site and lives there now in 1971.

### Kate Leslie of Troup Factory

For five months in 1857, Katherine "Kate" Leslie, eldest daughter of Thomas Leslie, taught school at Troup Factory. Her schoolroom was the little Factory Church.

In a notebook with marbleboard covers she wrote, 25 years later, that she "taught a school of twelve and fifteen year old girls and two or three little boys." The teaching was "pleasant and profitable."

After her school dismissed for the summer, she attended a commencement in Madison County, Georgia while visiting relatives. A highlight of her trip was a visit to the great wonder of Georgia, Stone Mountain.

Katherine Leslie was born in Meriwether County, Georgia on August 22, 1836. Her parents, Thomas and Louisa Villiers Anderson Leslie, were "both raised in Wilkes County, Georgia, but met and formed acquaintance and marriage engagement at the Warm Springs in Meriwether County, where my father was engaged in the mercantile business," she wrote. Warm Springs was a favorite summer resort in those days.

Kate's family moved to Greenville, Meriwether County, in 1838. Her father opened a mercantile establishment and began an association with James Madison Creed Robertson lasting a lifetime.

In September, 1848, Thomas Leslie moved his family to Troup Factory, Troup County, Georgia, a few miles away on Flat Shoals Creek. He was manager and agent of the Troup Factory cotton mill from that time until 1881, and partner with Mr. Robertson and others in Robertson, Leslie & Company, owners and operators of the factory.

"Mine has been an eventful life," Kate penned, "now when [I am] little more than forty-six years of age." The year was 1882 and she was then Mrs. Henry Eppes Moss of Whitesville, Harris County, Georgia. In her life she found a "great deal of sunshine and happiness and yet intervals of clouds and trouble." She wrote:

My school life and girlhood were all bright. My married life and motherhood as happy as my health and responsibility would admit.

I can truly say my lines have fallen in pleasant places, and reverently exclaim that goodness and mercy have followed me all the days of my life.

I commenced school on my sixth birthday, to Mr. John Park of Greenville, in 1842. In 1843, myself and brother Anderson [Leslie] went to school to Miss Fannie Samford, daughter of Rev. Thomas Samford of Troup County.

In 1844, we went to the Greenville Academy to Messrs. Corbin and Bonnell. In 1845, Mr. Park, who had moved back to Greenville from LaGrange, then took the Academy, as Park and Bonnell.

In 1846, 1847 and 1848, till we moved to Troup, continued under Mr. Park and his different assistants.

so many would go home to dinner with the family owning the property that the church was removed. Folks were eating the man out of house and home!

The old timers of Troup Factory used to tell of an Indian burying ground near the Thompson place. Flat Shoals Creek was a favorite of the Creek Indians in this area and their trails crossed hereabouts at fords on convenient shoals.

An old road turns off Hardy Road to the left near the house and heads directly towards the creek. Originally, it went into the Smoky Road near the creek. The road now ends at the site of the old



### Leslies Move to Troup Factory

After the Leslie family moved to Troup Factory, the children went to school to Mr. Lee Booker "a few months," in 1849. They walked daily nearly three miles to the school. In 1850, they went a month or two to Mr. Fairfax Finch, "at the same school house I had walked to the year before."

Kate Leslie entered the "Baptist College at LaGrange" in July, 1851. It was then known as LaGrange Collegiate Seminary for Young Ladies. At the time, Milton E. Bacon was president. She wrote that she was "under Milton E. Bacon, Dr. H. H. Tucker, Coleman B. Ferrell and Miss Sarah Stephens." The college was dedicated in November, 1851 and commencement held that year in the fall.

The name of the college was changed on January 14, 1852 to Southern and Western Female College. Kate Leslie was there for the spring term in 1852. She boarded with the Singleton Traywick family in 1851 and with Col. Wylie P. Burks' family in 1852, finding "both terms pleasant and improving."

For the spring term of 1853, Kate Leslie attended the school of Professor John Darby at Culloden, Georgia. His assistants were Misses Fannie and Cynthia Burlingame. She boarded with the family of Dr. Carey S. LeSeur, and had "a pleasant year of much benefit."

In April, 1854, I made a pleasant visit to Greenwood, Jackson County, Florida to my Uncle [Davis] Gray's, in company with Uncle Felix Leslie, who bought land in that county then, and a cousin, Miss Gabriella Anderson, from near Washington [Georgia].

Visited Marianna, the county site and the famous Blue Spring and Chipola Cave and Natural Bridge, places of note in Jackson County. Spent two months of the summer of same year in Wilkes and Greene counties visiting relatives. A very pleasant year indeed.

1855 and 1856 pleasant, though unmarked particularly.

After teaching her school at Troup Factory, in 1857, Kate Leslie went to Greenwood, Florida in October of that year to spend the winter, "as pleasant and as happy as could be."

Kate returned to Troup Factory in April, 1858. She noted the year "particularly marked by the marriage of some of my dearest cousins and friends, a serious break up in our happy circle."

Cousin Francina Jones was married in June. Cousin Joe Burks in October. Cousin Mary Render in November. We had been so intimately associated, I felt real sad.

1859, though, passed off happily. On December 20, the marriage wave reached our home, and Brother Anderson was married [to Virginia A. Reid, of Troup County], the first break at home.

To comfort and relieve myself, if not to others at home, I followed his example, and married Henry E. Moss, of Harris County, Georgia, on 10th April 1860, to whom I had been engaged a long time and loved with all the devotion of my whole nature.

### Wartime Married Life

Mrs. Moss wrote that "my married life, with all its changes, and events, has been singularly blessed and happy. I had been married just two years when my dear husband had to leave me and our little Dixie [their son] to go to the dreadful War Between the States."

After her husband went into service, she and their son moved back to the home of her parents at Troup Factory. She remained there about one year.

Meantime, the health of Henry Moss "had completely let down from having measles in Virginia in July, 1862. He was furloughed for three months, hoping to recover, but returned to his command only to suffer untold misery in both camp and hospital during the winter."

In March, 1863, Henry Moss mustered in a substitute for himself, "Mr. William Lankford, a neighbor and friend," and he returned to Georgia. During that year, he "regained some strength, and the Moss family moved back to their "little home" in Harris County, near Whitesville, "to be happy with each other for a short time again."

In the spring of 1864, Henry Moss was again "called out" for Confederate army service, with the Georgia State Troops, and was in the campaign and siege of Atlanta. He was in the desperate fight at Griswoldville, Georgia on November 22, 1864."

At Griswoldville, Henry Moss was "shocked and partially paralyzed by the bursting of a shell. He was sent home and was not able for duty again before Governor Brown [of Georgia] disbanded the Militia and General Lee surrendered in Virginia.

"Then with property nearly all gone, himself in poor health, and myself almost bedridden, we had to make a new start in life."



### After the Civil War

In the winter of 1865, we moved to the old White place near Whitesville, and began to build up our lost fortunes.

We were greatly blessed, and prospered until 1st of May, 1875. We lost everything we had, except our land and lives, by a terrible cyclone.

At the time of the cyclone, the Moss family consisted of six children. "With the gradual accumulation of fifteen years all gone," Mrs. Moss wrote, "we saw a picture in life's plan we had not expected, but our lives were spared and we set to work again, he energetic and hopeful, but myself despondent. How far we have succeeded, or what the result may be, we can not know."

In the fall of 1880, Mr. Moss thought it would be to his interest to sell our home below Whitesville and buy a smaller farm. He did so, and bought the Hood homestead, six miles from Hamilton. At the expiration of one year, his Whitesville place was thrown back on his hands and gave him great trouble.

He rented it for the year 1882 and made arrangements to go back, sold the Hood place, and after two years of life's joys and sorrows, we go back to the old home.

The children of Henry E. and Kate Leslie Moss were:

- |                         |                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Dixie Moss           | 4. Leslie Moss          | 7. Lizzie Anderson Moss |
| born June 7, 1861       | born September 25, 1869 | born June 25, 1875      |
| 2. Fannie Lee Moss      | 5. Henry Moss           | 8. Tom Leslie Moss      |
| born July 19, 1865      | born October 3, 1871    | born February 14, 1878  |
| 3. Amy Moss             | 6. Mary Kate Moss       | 9. Robert Oliver Moss   |
| born September 28, 1867 | born June 28, 1873      | born April 10, 1881     |

Six of the Moss children were baptized by the Rev. J. T. Lowe, of the Methodist North Georgia Conference, on December 31, 1874. Lizzie and Tom Leslie Moss were baptized in the Methodist faith by the Rev. F. M. T. Brannon in September, 1878.

Robert Oliver Moss was born on the 21st anniversary of the marriage of Kate and Henry Moss. He was baptized by the Rev. C. S. Owens, of the Methodist church, in November, 1882.



MRS. HENRY EPPES MOSS (1836-1908)  
Nee Katherine "Kate" Leslie, eldest child and daughter of Thomas and Louisa Villiers Anderson Leslie, of Troup Factory.

Henry E. Moss was born September 24, 1833 and died December 11, 1885. Mrs. Kate Leslie Moss died May 3, 1908. They are buried, with others of the family, at Whitesville United Methodist Church Cemetery, Whitesville, Harris County, Georgia.

### Methodist Conversion

"I can scarcely tell when or where I received my first religious impressions," Mrs. Kate Leslie Moss wrote. She listed the teachings of her parents, the influence of "my much loved teacher Mr. [John] Park, a 'loved Sunday School teacher, Mrs. Myron Ellis, of Greenville,' and as 'a schoolgirl in LaGrange under Mrs. E. Y. Hill [wife of Judge E. Y. Hill].'"

... the determination to go forward and yield to inclination and duty took hold of me in the fall of 1874. I often found myself hesitating what church I would join, and after calmly deliberating and weighing all the arguments I could control, I decided to join the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

I did so, and was received into the church and baptized by the Rev. J. T. Lowe on 31st October 1874 and have tried to live a consistent Christian life since then, though often feel afraid and ashamed of myself and my shortcomings.

I love the cause of Christ. I love my church devotedly. I love all Christians, and feel that I do too little to advance the cause and kingdom of my Lord, hope and pray for more light, more strength.

My husband was baptized in infancy, but did not make a profession of religion or the church until Salem Camp Meeting in 1880 and was received into our church with our two daughters [Fannie Lee and Amy], the first Sunday in October 1880 by Rev. F. M. T. Brannon.

His Christian virtues are many, though some duties at his age, he finds it hard to take up. May the Lord give him strength, and yet enable him to go forward into duty.

## A New Troup Factory

Old folks in the Rough Edge District of Troup County, Georgia, remembered that Troup Factory operated with much of its original equipment about 37 years. It was installed during 1846-47.

Badly worn machinery, obsolete and inefficient, with a poor market for the mill's old-fashioned cotton goods, shut Troup Factory down for about two years, 1884-86. There was little or no production during this time.

At the famous factory on Flat Shoals Creek, operatives listened for the clanging of the morning bell in the cupola. Week after week, and month after month, it did not sound. There was a bleakness in Rough Edge and Troup Factory village. Some people talked about moving away, but did not, for Troup Factory was their long time home. Others had to move to seek new work and support their families.

There were sad goodbyes as wagons, loaded with families and belongings, pulled away up the steep hills. Tears were shed as the beloved scene of factory, creek and bridges faded.

To quit the cotton mill business or renovate the mill was what management had to decide. The fate of Troup Factory and its people seemed to "hang by a thread."

Officers and board of directors of Troup Factory, all prominent citizens of Troup and Meriwether counties, consulted with representatives of Lowell Machine Shop, cotton mill machinery manufacturers of Lowell, Massachusetts. President John Lemuel Robertson, of Troup Factory, began negotiations for new machines in late 1885 or early 1886.

Robert H. Stevenson, Treasurer of Lowell Machine Shop, wrote Mr. Robertson on January 29, 1886:

I write to say that we will accept your order for machinery amounting to about \$16,000., on the following letters of payment, viz: 65 per cent cash when the machinery is ready for shipment at Lowell, 35 per cent your note at 6 months from date of invoice, without interest.

A letter from Mr. Stevenson, dated February 23, indicates a change in the terms:

Your letter of the 20th, addressed to Mr. Holdreth at Lowell, has been forwarded to me for reply in regard to terms of payment.

We will with pleasure enter your order on the following terms, viz: 65 per cent of invoice payable by sight draft accompanied by Bill of Lading, and 35 per cent of invoice payable by your note at 6 months from date of invoice, without interest.

Rather than a large cash outlay, "when the machinery is ready for shipment at Lowell," Mr. Robertson preferred the machinery to be built and consigned in several shipments, to be paid for on arrival.

As the machinery arrived at LaGrange, Georgia he would be presented with a "sight draft" with bill of lading attached for 65% of the total invoice value of each shipment. As he made payment of each "sight draft," the machinery would be released for delivery to his wagons.

The freight terms were f.o.b. Lowell, so the shipments of machinery, loaded in railroad cars, were made with freight charges to be collected from the consignee, Troup Factory.

When the first shipment of two carloads moved on April 13, 1886 Troup Factory was drawn upon "at sight, with invoice and B/L [bill of lading] attached, in favor Merchants Nat. Bank of Boston, for \$2,439.45." This amount was 65% of the invoice value of \$3,753.00, actually charged on the books of Lowell Machine Shop against Troup Factory, and covered a shipment "of two cars of Machinery shipped you yesterday," Mr. Stevenson advised Mr. Robertson on April 14.

Concerning the rate of freight to be charged by the railroads, Mr. Robertson wrote Lowell on April 19. Mr. Stevenson replied on the 22nd:

By reference to Mr. Holdreth's letter giving you the rate of freight made with the Great Southern Despatch Line, I think you will find that each car was to be billed at a not less than 24,000 lbs. at 63¢ per 100 lbs. to Atlanta, [\$151.20 total charge per carload].

It is customary for freight lines to stipulate the least weight a car shall contain when giving rates [i. e., a minimum weight acceptable to the railroad carriers as a carload, moving through to destination as such, without a break point transfer of the goods, and at a better rate of freight than afforded less than carload shipment].

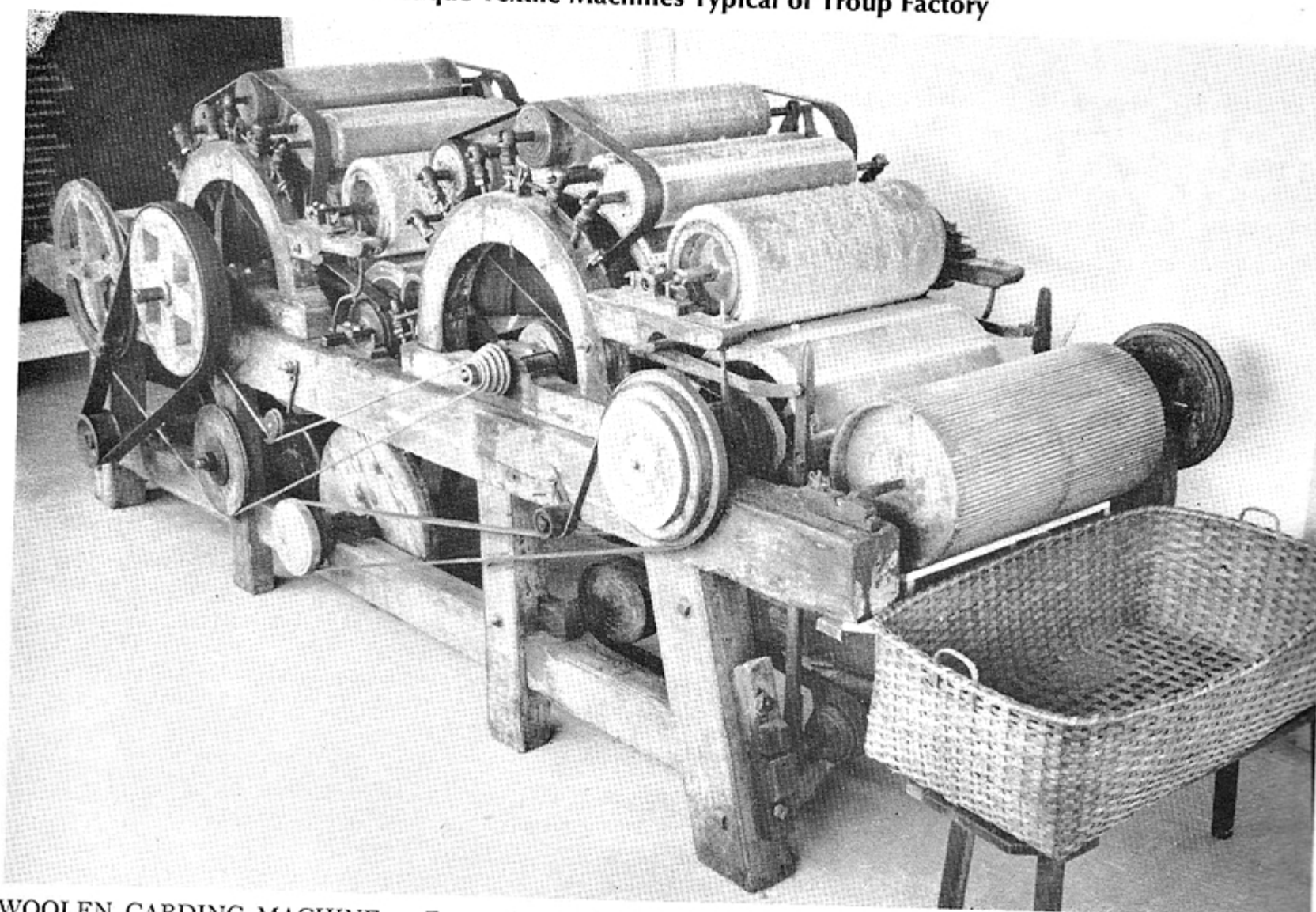
We expect to ship the balance of your machinery in about two weeks.

### Manifest of First Shipment

The first shipment, covered by Lowell's invoice of April 13, 1886 included 12 Top Cards, 30 tops each, with cylinders 48" in diameter and 36" wide, for \$2,100.00. The twelve sets of card clothing necessary for the cylinders were \$65.00 per set, \$780.00. Two lines of Apron Troughs, 8" wide, 6 cards each, cost \$90.00.



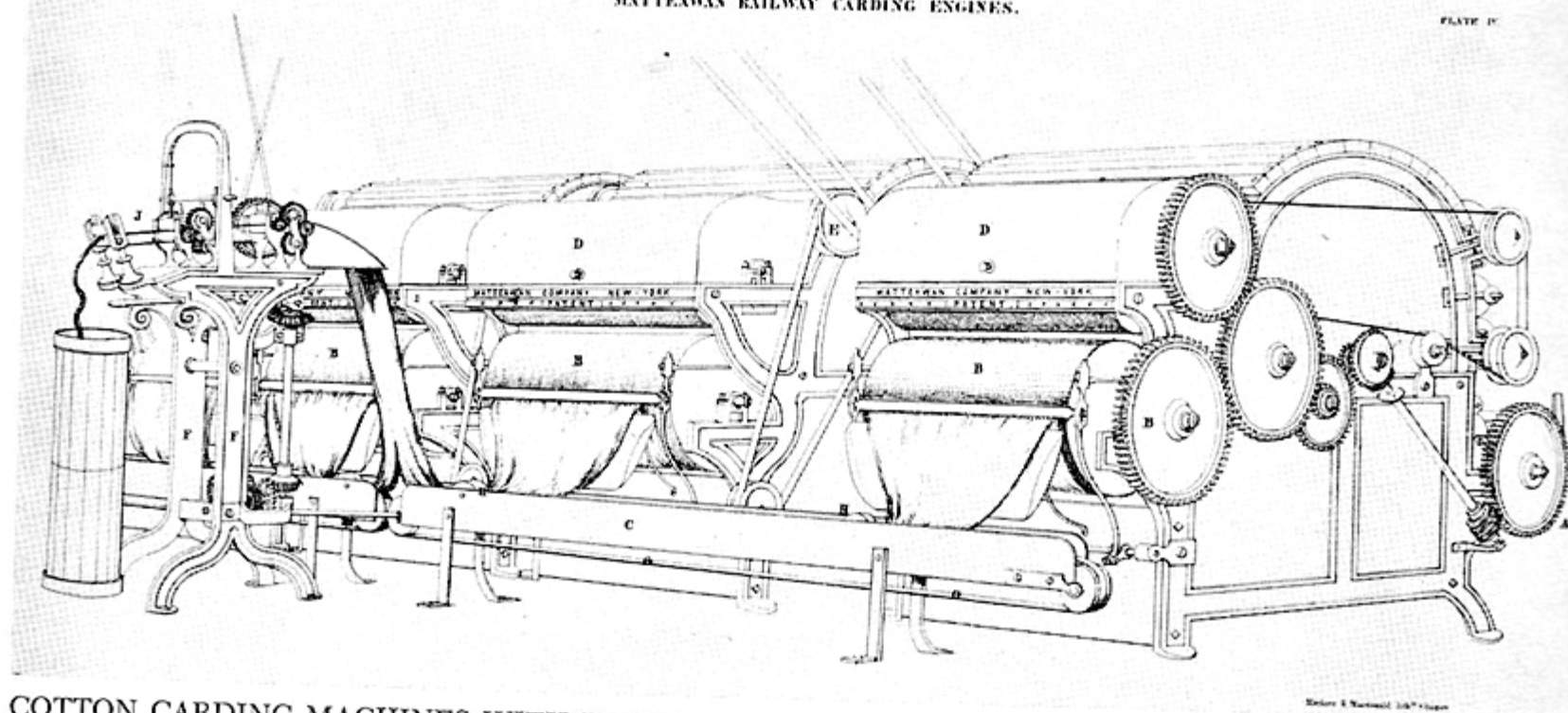
# Antique Textile Machines Typical of Troup Factory



**WOOLEN CARDING MACHINE** — For carding rolls for hand spinning. Manufactured by Artemus Dryden, Jr., of Holden, Mass., about 1810-1840. In the collection of the Merrimack Valley Textile Museum. A wool card typical of the type that would have been found in the Brooks' Mill in 1843, and which could have served Troup Factory for wool carding for domestic use thereafter. The above card was used well into the twentieth century. Courtesy of Merrimack Valley Textile Museum, North Andover, Mass.

MATTEAWAN RAILWAY CARDING ENGINES.

PLATE IV



**COTTON CARDING MACHINES WITH RAILWAY HEAD, ABOUT 1840.** From: James Montgomery, *THE COTTON MANUFACTURE OF THE UNITED STATES CONTRASTED AND COMPARED WITH THAT OF GREAT BRITAIN* (Glasgow, 1840), plate IV. A typical cotton carding machine of the period when Troup Factory was organized in 1846. Courtesy of Merrimack Valley Textile Museum.



Two Hardy Cylinder Grinders, for grinding the flats of the card cylinders, cost \$45.00 each, \$90.00. Supplies detailed on the invoice were:

110,000 Oval Head 8 oz. Card Tacks	@ .075 M	\$ 8.25
39 Lap Sticks	.11 ea.	4.29
945 H. Co. Speeder Bobbins	22.00 M	20.79
4,379 H. F. Speeder Bobbins	16.00 M	70.06
475 C. Speeder Skewers	10.00 M	4.75
2,200 F. Speeder Skewers	8.00 M	17.60
4,000 Warp Quills	8.00 M	32.00
3,740 Filling Quills	8.00 M	29.92
1,230 4 x 6" Spools	40.00 M	49.20
685 Spool Skewers	4.00 M	2.74

A charge for boxing the supplies, \$5.85, was added to the invoice.

Reeds and harness for the new looms ordered for Troup Factory were included in the shipment:

75 Reeds for 2 Harness Goods	@ .80 ea.	60.00
18 Reeds for 3 Harness Goods	.65 ea.	11.70
75 Sets Harness for 2 Harness Goods	1.30 set	97.50
18 Sets Harness for 3 Harness Goods	1.65 set	29.70
Boxing		2.90

Thirteen dozen new shuttles for the looms were shipped, priced at \$4.00 per dozen, \$52.00. New loom strapping, 139¾ lbs., cost 62¢ lb., \$86.65. Five dozen oil cans were billed at \$2.50 per dozen, \$12.50.

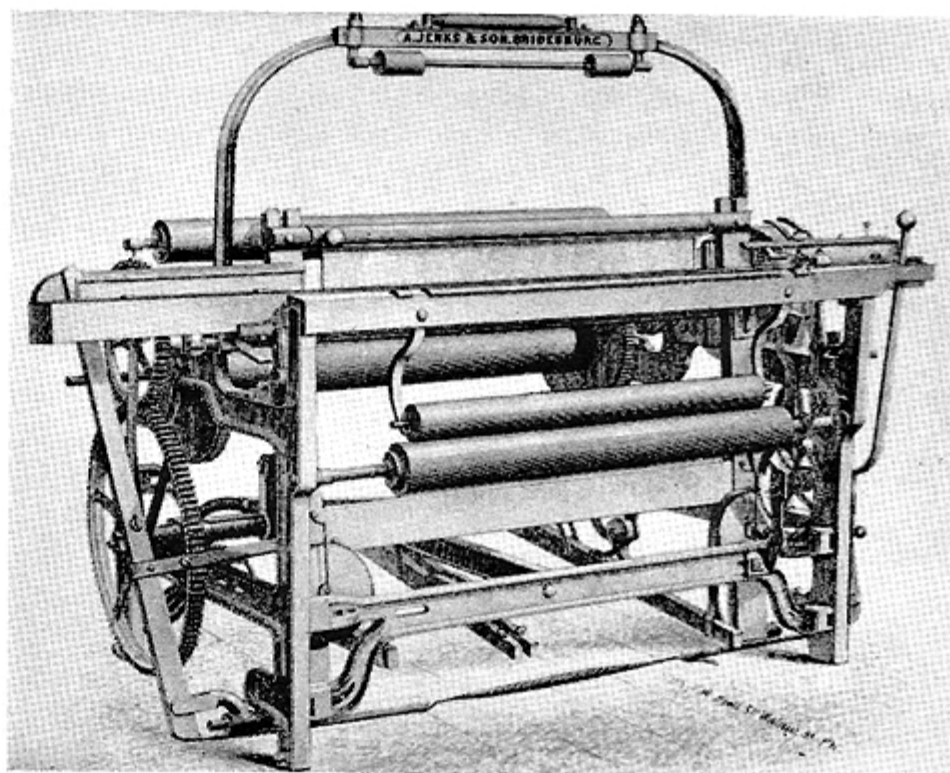
The two lines of Apron Troughs required 130 feet of 7¾" 3 ply Rubber Apron Belt, billed at 30¢ per foot, \$39.00.

Eighteen Reed Combs were shipped at 70¢ each, \$12.60. Woolen Slasher Cloth, for the new Slasher on order, was included, the ten yards of cloth billed at 85¢ per yard, \$8.50.

For the Troup Factory laboratory, or superintendent's office, a new Roving and Yarn Scale, \$14.00, and a Roving and Yarn Reel, \$8.00, were shipped.

A bill of lading and sight draft invoice of April 16 covered the following shipment:

2 Railway Heads	\$ 280.00
1 Speeder Frame, 36 spindles, 6½" space, 10½" traverse	546.00
2 Speeder Frames, 60 spindles each, 5" space, 8¼" traverse	1,224.00
1 Spooler, 80 spindles, 4½" space, 6" traverse	216.00
1 Warper )	
1 Patrick's Patented )	
Warper Creel )	200.00
12 Warper Beams, with 24" heads	90.00
1 Card Top )	
1 Doffer Winding Ma- )	
chine; also clamps, )	
harnesses, gauges &c. )	
for clothing cards )	90.00
1 Top Card Grinder, Curved	90.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,766.00</b>



LOOM, APPROPRIATE FOR COTTON SHEETING, 1867.  
From: DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE OF MACHINES BUILT BY THE BRIDESBURG MANUFACTURING COMPANY (Bridesburg, Pa., 1867), plate 21.  
Courtesy of Merrimack Valley Textile Museum.

The sight draft amounted to 65% of the above total, drawn in favor of the Merchants National Bank of Boston for \$1,797.90. The shipment was a carload.

On April 20, a bill of lading and sight draft were made for three carloads of machinery:

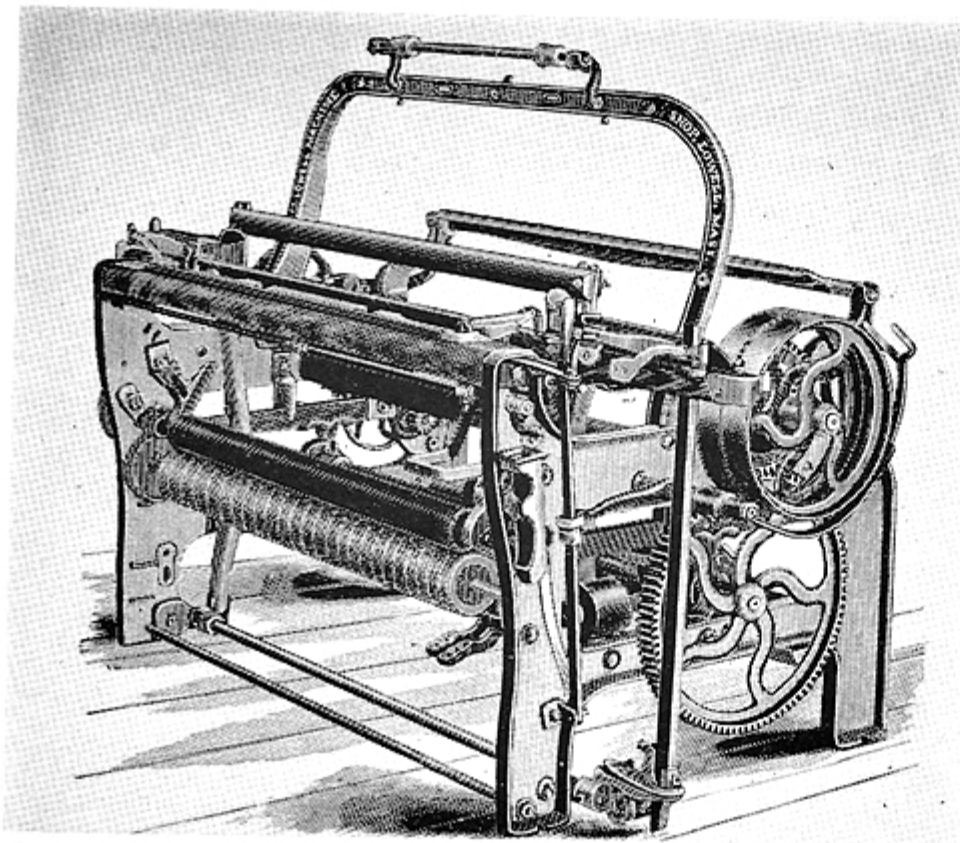
1 Cylinder Slasher, with one 5 ft. diameter Copper Cylinder, 60" face, L. M. T. Trap & Cone Wind	\$ 800.00
1 Overhead Track, with Pulley Block	35.00
52 Looms, with Harness for 36" Goods @ \$49.00 ea.	2,548.00
12 Sets of 3 Shade Motions	60.00
30 Tin Cans 18 x 36" [Roving Cans] @ 1.90 ea.	57.00

6 19" Hand Cards  
 1 Folder, 1¼ yards, complete  
 1 4/4 Brushing Machine, complete

Gratis

215.00  
 215.00

\$3,930.00



36-INCH SHEETING LOOM, 1888

From: LOWELL MACHINE SHOP CATALOGUE, 1888, page 72. Typical of the time of the modernization of Troup Factory in 1886. Courtesy of Merrimack Valley Textile Museum.

Mr. Stevenson forwarded his sight draft, as usual, to "G. R. Chapman, Esq.," cashier of the Merchants National Bank, and notified Mr. Robertson he had drawn upon Troup Factory. The 65% of invoice value amounted to \$2,554.50.

Two carloads of machinery were shipped on May 13:

1 16" Roll Drawing Frame,	
4 lines rolls, 6 rolls	
long, 6 deliveries,	
4 into 1 = 6 @ 56.00	\$ 336.00
4 Warp Ring Frames, 208	
spindles each, 2¾"	
space, 6¼" traverse,	
L.M.S. Adjustable	
1¾" Rings	2,038.40
4 Filling Ring Frames,	
192 spindles each,	
2¾" space, 6" traverse,	
L.M.S. Adjustable	
1½" Rings	1,881.60

Total \$4,256.00

The sight draft for 65% amounted to \$2,766.40.

#### Erecting Machinists Sent

Time was allowed for the shipments to be received at LaGrange, Georgia, unloaded on wagons at the railroad freight depot, and placement at the Troup Factory mill floors. Old mill equipment was removed, scrapped or sold.

The Lowell Machine Shop dispatched three of their erecting machinists to the mill. On May 6, 1886 Troup Factory was charged for three railroad tickets to Atlanta, Georgia "for men to start machinery." The fares were \$30.95 each, total \$92.85, for Mr. Morse, Mr. Wilcox and Mr. Farnum.

"Expenses of Mr. Morse to set machinery," were billed on May 6 at \$38.00. Mr. Wilcox worked 360 hours and Troup Factory was charged on June 26 for his time, "hanging shafting at mill," \$71.28. From this it appears that his hourly rate was 19.8¢.

Troup Factory machines derived power from the impounded waters of Flat Shoals Creek surging through its "Keffel wheels and water house." Each "room," or floor of the mill had overhead line shafting suspended from the ceiling, with pulleys, driven and idle, clutches and rope or belting drives to individual machines. For the new machinery it was necessary to rearrange and hang shafting.

Mr. Farnum and Mr. Morse put in 240 hours of time, "labor at mill," \$52.80, indicating an hourly rate of 11¢. Their time was charged on an invoice of June 29, which also carried "expense of Mr. Wilcox a/c Shafting, &c.," \$65.10, and 52 pairs Reciprocating Temples at \$2.00 per pair, \$104.00.

An invoice of July 9 charged "expense of Mr. Farnum to set machinery," \$71.55.

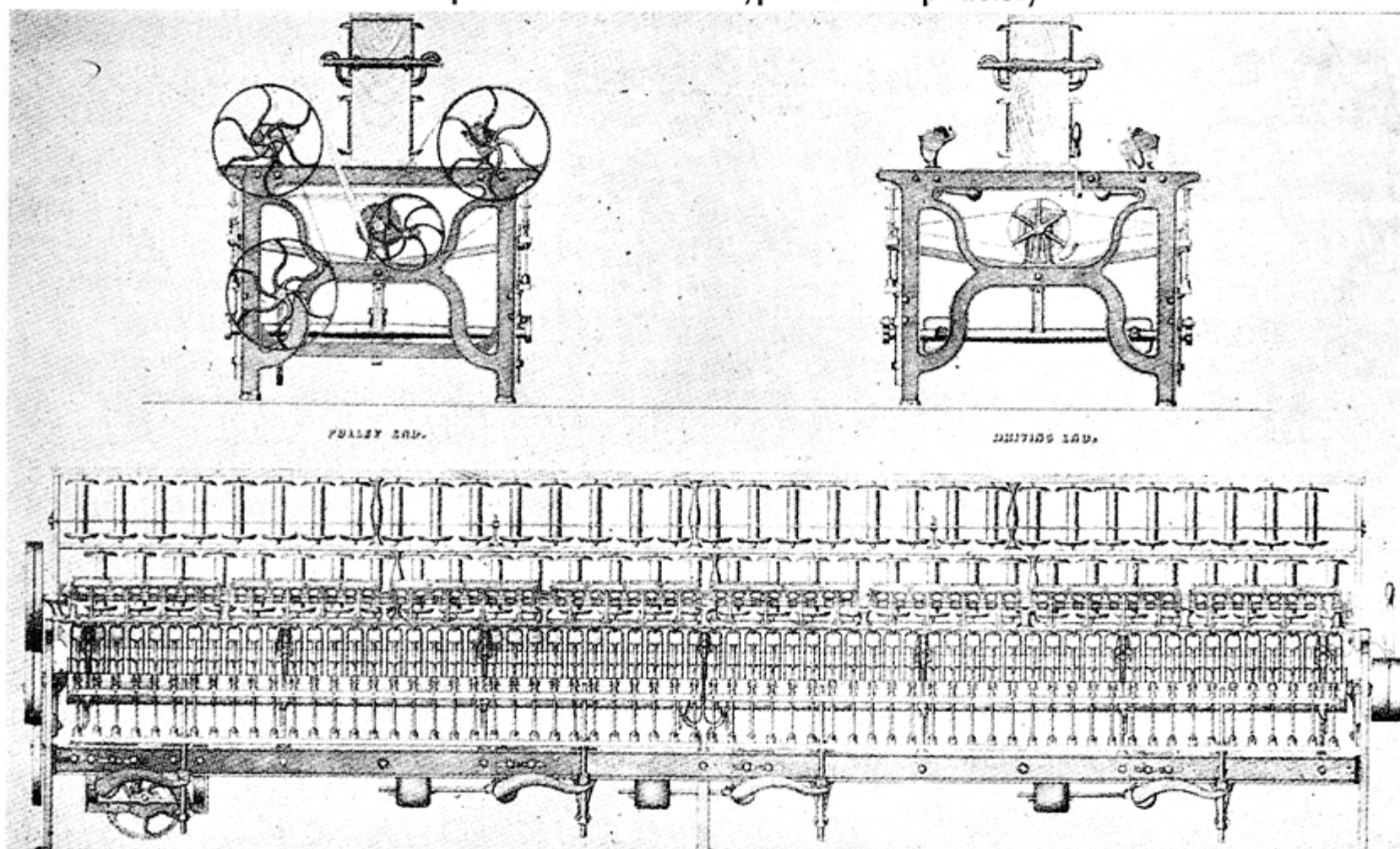
#### Troup Factory Brands

The Lowell Machine Shop shipped on their invoice of June 24, 1886 some new equipment for the branding and shipping room at Troup Factory:

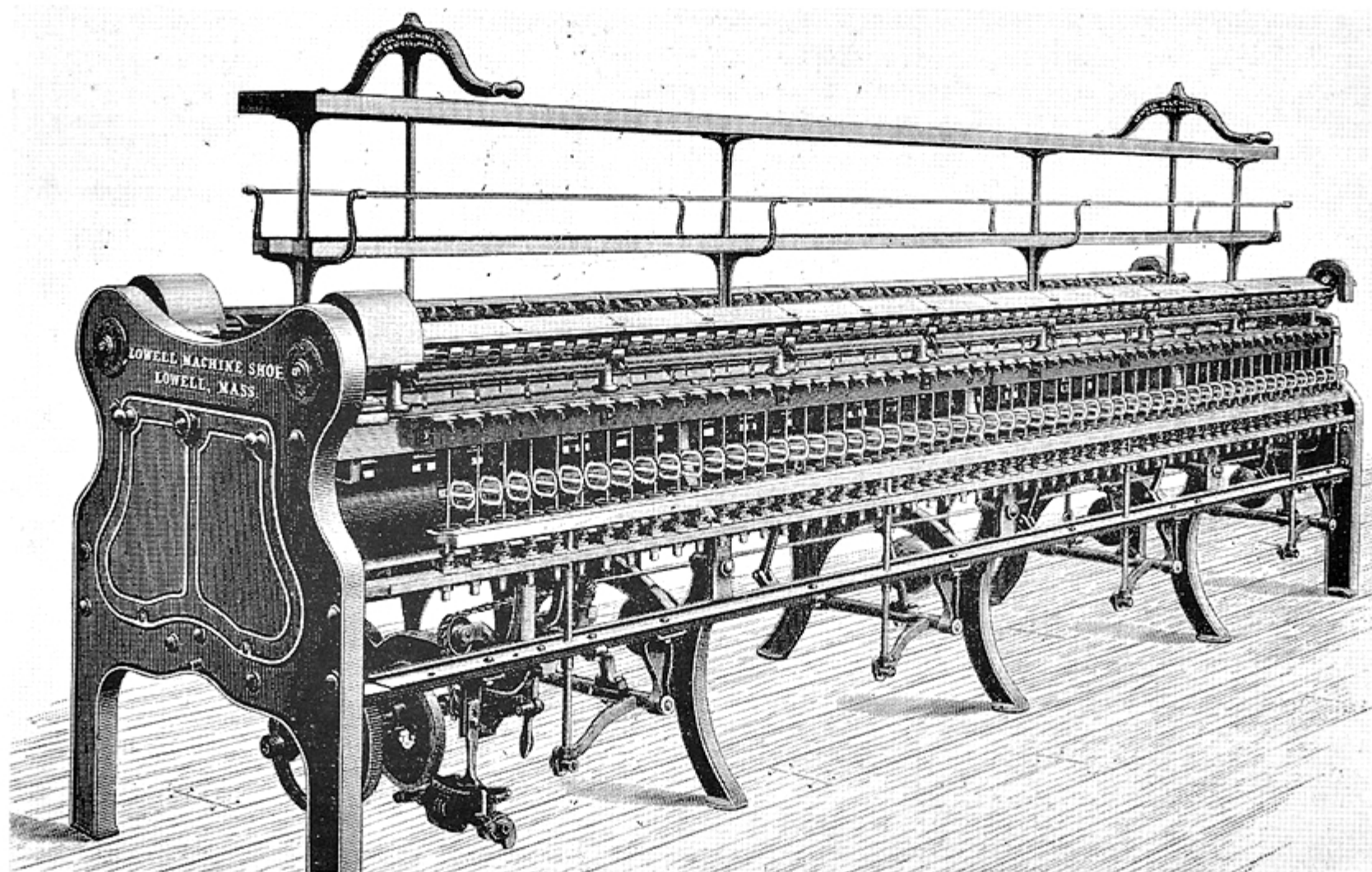
1 Lever Stamping Press		\$20.00
1 Ink Pad		17.00
10 lbs. Blue Ink	@ .35	3.50
1 Stamp "Troup Factory"		28.00
1 Stamp "A. A."		4.50
Boxing		1.10
Total		\$74.10



# Antique Textile Machines Typical of Troup Factory



THROSTLE (DEAD SPINDLE TYPE) SPINNING FRAME FOR COTTON, ABOUT 1848. From: LOWELL MACHINE SHOP CATALOGUE, 1898, page 109. A typical cotton spinning frame of the period when Troup Factory was organized in 1846. Courtesy of Merrimack Valley Textile Museum.



RING SPINNING FRAME FOR COTTON, 1888. From: LOWELL MACHINE SHOP CATALOGUE, 1888, page 37. Typical of the time of modernization of Troup Factory in 1886. Courtesy of Merrimack Valley Textile Museum.



"Troup Factory" brand was the main trade name of Troup Factory for its products. Sheetings were sold under the "A. A." or "Double A" brand and "Troup Factory" brand.

At intervals on the goods, "Troup Factory" was imprinted or branded with the blue ink, as well as "A. A." and possibly other markings or brands.

#### Settlement of the Note

Total invoicings for the new machinery furnished by Lowell Machine Shop to Troup Factory amounted to \$14,705. Under the terms of sight draft, bill of lading attached, 65% was paid as machinery arrived, amounting to \$9,558.25. This left a balance due, as agreed, of 35%, or \$5,146.75.

Along with a statement of the account, Mr. Stevenson wrote Mr. Robertson on August 24, 1886:

In accordance with our agreement with you, will you kindly send me your company's note at six months for \$5,146.75, dated April 24, the sum of which is 35% of invoices in settlement of the balance due us on machinery, as shown by the enclosed account, and oblige.

The note was due to mature on October 24, 1886.

Mr. Robertson wrote Lowell Machine Shop and sent the Troup Factory note. It was acknowledged by Mr. Stevenson on September 3:

We are in receipt of yours of the 30th ulto., enclosing note for \$5,146.75 and we herewith enclose receipt for said note.

We have some large payments to make next month and we regret to say that we cannot extend the note after its maturity.

Some question about the note was in Mr. Robertson's mind so he wrote Lowell, receiving this reply dated September 6:

Yours 31st ulto. duly received. We find you are mistaken in relation to the note which you sent us. We find the note is payable to us or to our order and is apparently all right. I give you below a copy of the note and if you still think it is not properly drawn, please advise me.

The Troup Factory note copied by Mr. Stevenson was as follows:

Troup )  
County )

LaGrange, Ga., April 24, 1886

Six months after date, the Troup Factory promises to pay the Lowell Machine Shop or to its order Five Thousand One Hundred Forty Six & 75/100 Dollars \$5,146.75.

At no interest until after maturity, then at the rate of six per cent (6%) per annum.

[Signed] J. L. Robertson,

President of Troup Factory.

Mr. Stevenson wrote Mr. Robertson in his letter of September 3 that due to "large payments" in October his company must make, the note could not be extended beyond maturity.

Mr. Robertson and his Troup Factory management decided to pay off the obligation by an arrangement with the LaGrange Banking & Trust Company, LaGrange, Georgia and so advised Lowell on October 20.

On October 23, Mr. Stevenson wrote Mr. Robertson, "Your note has been sent by our Bank to the LaGrange Banking & Trust Co., for collection, as you request."

#### Troup Factory Expansion of 1889

When Mr. Stevenson, of Lowell Machine Shop, acknowledged to Mr. Robertson the last payment for the machinery sold Troup Factory for its renovation in 1886, he closed by "hoping the machinery will work to your entire satisfaction and that it will be successful."

With new machinery, Troup Factory entered a period of prosperity and an expansion was planned for 1889. Actually, the carding, drawing and additional spindles for the speeders ordered in 1889 may have been proposed for the renovation of 1886. Mr. Stevenson wrote Mr. Robertson in his letter of January 29, 1886 accepting "your order for machinery amounting to about \$16,000." For financial or other reasons the order was perhaps reduced, as machinery only in the amount of \$14,705. was shipped in 1886.

This seems likely for the new order amounted to \$1,769.11, and the total of the two orders was \$16,474.11.

Lowell Machine Shop shipped and invoiced on August 31, 1889 the following equipment:

2 Improved F & P [Fales & Pettee] Cards, 34 flats each, with shell feed	@ 225.00	\$ 450.00
Piecing Out Apron Troughs for 2 Cards	8.00	16.00
2 16" Roll Drawing Frames, 2nd process, 4 lines rolls each, 4 deliveries each, 3 into 1	64.00	512.00
Adding 6 Spindles to 1 Speeder, 36 spindles, 6½" space	16.00	96.00
Adding 12 Spindles each to 2 Speeders, 60 spindles, 5" space	10.00	240.00
Covering Lickerin for 2 F & P Cards with garnet		25.00
2 Sets F & P Card Clothing except Lickerins		144.82
1 Hardy Top Flat Grinder		136.00
<i>Supplies:</i>		
6 Pulleys )		
2 Hangers ) 387 lbs.	.06½ lb.	25.16
15 ft. 2" Belting	.12 ft.	1.80
35 ft. 1¾" Belting	.10 ft.	3.50
46 ft. 1½" Belting	.08 ft.	3.68
46 ft. 2¼" Belting	.13 ft.	5.98
24 ft. 7⁄8" Rubber Apron Belt	.28 ft.	6.72
40 Tin Cans 12 x 36" [Roving Cans]	1.15	46.00
<i>Gears:</i>		
1 Extra Speeder Draft Gear, ea. 31, 32 & 33 T	.01½ tth	2.88
1 Extra Speeder Draft Gear, ea. 28, 29 & 30 T	.01 tth	.87
1 Extra Speeder Rail Gear, ea. 19, 20 & 21 T	.01 tth	.60
1 Extra Speeder Cone Gear, ea. 40, 42 & 44 T	.01 tth	1.26
4 Extra Speeder Draft Gear, ea. 22, 23 & 24 T	.01½ tth	4.14
2 Extra Speeder Twist Gear, ea. 36, 38 & 40 T	.01 tth	2.28
2 Extra Speeder Rail Gear, ea. 16, 17 & 18 T	.01 tth	1.02
2 Extra Speeder Cone Gear, ea. 50, 52 & 54 T	.01 tth	3.12
16 Extra Spin Draft Gear, ea. 29, 30 & 31 T	.01 tth	21.60
8 Extra Spin Draft Gear, ea. 54 T	.01½ tth	6.48
1 Extra Drawing Draft Gear, ea. 39, 40 & 41 T	.01½ tth	1.80
2 Extra Railway Gears, ea. 37 T	.01½ tth	1.10
12 Extra Card Draft Gears, ea. 12 & 76 T		9.30
Total		\$1,769.11

#### Troup Factory Repair and Replacement Parts

From the Lowell Machine Shop account books, an extraction was made by the author of the machinery repair and replacement parts shipped and invoiced Troup Factory. The period covered was from August 19, 1886 through November 1, 1890.

The items were common cotton mill repair and replacement parts necessary for the operation. They were kept in the factory supply room.

It is obvious from the list that all repair and replacement parts and sundry mill supplies were not bought from Lowell. Some parts and repairs were made in the mill shop or blacksmith shops at Troup Factory.

Machine shops and foundries in Georgia and elsewhere made gears and other parts for cotton mills of the South. Troup Factory records on this phase are not available.

The unit prices show some increases during the period studied.

#### Repair Parts Purchased By Troup Factory From Lowell Machine Shop, 1886-1890

Part	Quantity	Unit Price	Total
Binders, Shuttle, and Studs	48	.20	\$ 9.60
Bolsters, Short Shell	800	.12	96.00
Bolsters, Short Shell and Steps	200	.22	44.00
Bolts, 5/16 x 3 1/8", and Nuts	72	.02¼	1.62
Bolts, 5/16 x 3 1/8", and Nuts	144	.03¼	4.68
Bolts, 3/8 x 3 1/2", and Nuts	72	.03	2.16

Chains, Builder, for Spinning	2	.30	.60
Fingers, Protector Rod	27	.12	3.24
Flanges, 5" space	6	1.80	10.80
Flanges, 6½" space	6	2.25	13.50
Flyers, 6½"	6	2.25	13.50
Gears, Bevel, Double, 48 teeth	3	1.00	3.00
Gears, Bevel, Single, 24 teeth	3	.25	.75
Gears, Intermediate Railway, 22 teeth	2	.35	.70
Gears, Intermediate Twist, 30 teeth	3	.01 tth	.90
Gears, Railway Cone, 19 teeth	2	.01 tth	.38
Gears, Railway Cone, 20 teeth	2	.01 tth	.40
Gears, Railway Cone, 21 teeth	2	.01 tth	.42
Gears, Railway Cone, 22 teeth	2	.01 tth	.44
Gears, Speeder Twist, 29 teeth	2	.01 tth	.58
Gears, Speeder Twist, 30 teeth	2	.01 tth	.60
Gears, Speeder Twist, 31 teeth	2	.01 tth	.62
Gears, Speeder Twist, 32 teeth	2	.01 tth	.64
Gears, Spinning Draft, 25 teeth	16	.01½ tth	6.00
Gears, Spinning Draft, 26 teeth	4	.01 tth	1.04
Gears, Spinning Draft, 27 teeth	16	.02 tth	8.64
Gears, Spinning Draft, 28 teeth	16	.02 tth	8.96
Gears, Spinning Twist, 26 teeth	4	.01 tth	1.04
Gears, Spinning Twist, 33 teeth	4	.01 tth	1.32
Gears, Spinning Twist, 34 teeth	4	.01 tth	1.36
Gears, Spinning Twist, 38 teeth	4	.01 tth	1.52
Gear, Spinning Twist, 39 teeth	4	.01 tth	1.56
Gears, Tension, 37 teeth	2	.01 tth	.74
Gears, Tension, 39 teeth	2	.01 tth	.78
Gears, Tension, 41 teeth	2	.01 tth	.82
Guides, Thread, 1½"	72	.60 gro.	.30
Irons, Race	16	.25	4.00
Loops, Leather Picker (1⅞ lbs.)	144	.65 lb.	1.22
Pawls, Railway Evener	4	.12	.48
Pickers, Leather Loom	30 lbs.	.45 lb.	13.50
Pinions, Beam, 16 teeth	54	.18	9.72
Pinions, Speeder, 16 teeth	2	.27½	.55
Points, Pick Cam	24	.07	1.68
Press-in, 5"	6	.10	.60
Press-in, 6"	6	.12	.72
Quills, Filling	2,547	.012	30.56
Racks, Filling	6	.10	.60
Rods, Protector, 36"	6	.60	3.60
Shells, Long Bar Drawing, 16" covered	6	.50	3.00
Shells, Speeder Frame, 6½" space, covered	12	.22	2.64
Springs, Beal Lever	24	.06	1.44
Springs, Parallel	48	.12	5.76
Springs, Parallel	48	.15	7.20
Springs, Shuttle Binder	144	.06	8.64
Springs, Spiral, in Racking Arm	48	.01½	.72
Stands, Beam Pinion	12	.40	4.80
Strippers, Hand Card	6	9.50 dz	4.75
Studs, Binder	24	.05	1.20
Studs, Binder	72	.06	4.32
Tongues, Parallel	26	.08	2.08
Tongues, Parallel	72	.10	7.20
Travelers, Ring, Hicks No. 9	3,000	.52	1.56
Trumpets, Adjustable, and Stems	2	3.33	6.66
Washers, Parallel	36	.06	2.16
Washers, Parallel	72	.08	5.76
Worms, Let Off, and Gears	12	.40	4.80

Total

\$385.13

Details of the new machinery for the Troup Factory renovation of 1886 were located in the collections of Baker Library, Harvard University Graduate School of Business Administration, Boston, Massachusetts. The collections contain records of the great New England textile machinery manufacturers.

Robert W. Lovett, Curator of Manuscripts and Archives, was most helpful in supplying the author with copies of pertinent material embodied in this article.



## Last Days of Troup Factory, 1895-1898

Charles Warren Corless, who owns the Troup Factory property, and has made his home there for years, has an old daybook of the mill. The paymaster or bookkeeper kept the monthly pay roll for the period of March, 1895 through June, 1898 in the book. It is a record of the last days of Troup Factory, a pioneer cotton textile mill of Western Georgia, which began operations in 1847.

The daybook is lined vertically to form columns and the headings are written, *Name, Time, Wages, A/C* [account of individual at the Troup Factory Store or commissary] and *Bal.* [balance, net pay after deduction of account owed at the commissary, for meal from the grist mill, etc.]. There is a column for rate of pay.

Troup Factory was a pioneer industrial center for the Troup and Meriwether counties area. Cotton factory, cotton gin, grist mill, tanyard, shoemaker, furniture and coffin making, were all industries growing out of the needs of an agrarian economy.

The endeavors were concentrated at Troup Factory, where there was notable water power from Flat Shoals Creek for the looms and grinding rocks. Perry Creek provided water for the cotton gin and tanyard.

In the Troup Factory village, and surrounding countryside, was a stable population of operatives: men, women and children. Their wages were recorded in the daybook pay roll record:

TROUP FACTORY			
DAILY WAGES 1895-1898			
<i>In Cents per Day</i>			
<i>Men</i>	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Girls</i>
90	20	60	20
75	18	50	19
70	16	45	18
65	15	40	15
60	14	38	13
50	13	37½	12
40	12	37	10
30	10	36	
		35	
		31	
		30	
		27	
		25	

The superintendent of Troup Factory for many years, Robert Southwell White, served in that capacity during the period under consideration. His salary was \$50.00 per month. He was also "head carder" and was paid 75¢ per day for that job. "Dalt" Hanner and S. H. Prayther were "overseers" and they were paid \$1.50 per day. John Bowles, with the highest "day hand" rate for men, 90¢ per day, was presumably in a supervisory job, possibly assistant overseer.

Troup Factory had 64 operatives on the pay roll for March, 1895. Of these, 51 day hands were entitled to wages as follows:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Time (Days worked)</i>	<i>Daily Rate</i>	<i>Wages</i>	<i>A/C</i>	<i>Bal.</i>
Ashford, Ben	24	.50	\$12.00	.65	\$11.35
Belcher, George	23	.50	11.50		
Borders, Anna	23	.12	2.75		
Borders, Lou	22½	.38	8.55		
Borders, Sallie	23	.36	8.30		
Bowles, Anna	23	.60	13.80		
Bowles, John	23	.90	21.80	4.90	16.90
Bowles, Lucian	23	.65	14.95		
Culpepper, Francis	23	.40	9.20		
Davis, Althea	19½	.36	7.02		
Davis, Carrie	22½	.10	2.22		
Davis, Mary	22½	.31	6.97		
Davis, Will	19¾	.10	2.20		
Davis, William	22½	.70	15.75	.75	15.00
Ferguson, Andy	23	.16	3.70		
Ferguson, Anna	22½	.36	8.10		
Ferguson, Mariah	23	.31	7.15		
Ferguson, S. C.	11½	.75	8.60		

Fulghum, Thomas	14¼	.70	9.95	.60	9.35
Hanner, Clara	3	.37½	1.12	.60	.52
Hanner, Dalt	23	1.50	34.50	.60	33.90
Hardy, Priddy	24	.40	9.60	1.75	7.85
Hart, Charles	23	.12	2.75		
Hart, Dan	23	.12	2.75		
Hart, Jim	22	.40	8.80		
Hegler, Alice	22	.31	6.80		
Justice, Cora	21½	.37½	8.05		
Justice, Fannie	19	.35	6.65	.50	6.15
Justice, F. M.	26	.75	19.50		
Justice, Nettie	23	.19	4.35		
Murphy, Bettie	53	.13	6.90	.50	6.40
Murphy, Frank	1	.50	.50		
Phillips, Leona	20½	.25	5.10		
Phillips, Sallie	34	.13	4.40	1.00	3.40
Pitts, Dick	19	.75	14.25		
Porter, Florence	19¾	.25	4.95	.75	4.20
Porter, Frank	28½	.40	11.40		
Porter, Kate	23	.25	5.75	.75	5.00
Porter, Pauline	23	.15	3.45		
Porter, Vesta	20	.20	4.00		
Prayther, S. H.	23	1.50	34.50	1.00	33.50
Smith, Cal	23	.70	16.10	.60	15.50
Smith, George	58½	.40	23.50		
Smith, Will	24	.70	16.80	4.20	12.60
Waldrop, Alice	23	.36	8.30		
Waldrop, Idelia	16	.50	8.00)		
	7	.36	2.52)		10.52
Waldrop, Ola	22½	.18	4.05		
White, R. S.			50.00)	15.50	
<i>Carding</i>	23	.75	17.25)	.60	75.40
White, Ben	23	.75	17.25)		
White, Ed	23	.20	4.60)		
Sees, Boyd	6	.40	2.40)		

#### Weavers Paid by the Cut

Troup Factory weavers were paid by the "cut" of cloth, this being a standard classification in the textile industry for length of goods produced from the looms of the weavers, as follows:

Single Cuts, 50 to 55 yards  
minimum 40¼ yards  
maximum 79¾ yards

Double Cuts, 100 to 110 yards  
minimum 80 yards  
maximum 159 yards

Other classifications were:

Shorts . . . . . 10¼ to 25 yards  
Long Pieces . . . . . 25¼ to 40 yards

Pound Pieces . . . . . ½ to 2 yards  
Remnants . . . . . 2¼ to 10 yards

Pieces and cuts were sewed together. The rolls of "Troup Factory" branded sheetings probably contained about 600 yards, mostly in continuous lengths, with no roll containing more than three pieces and no piece less than 100 yards.

In bales the content was probably 1,000 to 1,100 yards. Branded single cuts could contain not more than three pieces (long pieces) 25¼ to 40 yards each. A regular bale of sheetings probably contained about 20 to 24 pieces.

Goods produced by the weavers on the looms of Troup Factory were 36 inches in width. Sheetings, Osnaburgs, Drills and Twills were manufactured.

Pound pieces [sold by the pound] and remnants were put up in bales.

There were goods of first quality called and graded as "firsts" by the inspectors. Goods with imperfections of weaving or other faults were called "seconds." There was a market for both classes.

### Weaver Cuts and Wages

Weavers at Troup Factory on the March, 1895 pay roll produced the number of cuts shown below and were paid at the rate of 11¢ per cut for sheetings.

	Cuts	Wages		Cuts	Wages
Andrews, Mary	128	\$14.10	Fulghum, Fannie	132	\$14.50
Belcher, Ella	128	14.10	Hardy, Sallie	117	12.90
Bowles, Maggie	169	18.60	Hart, Lou	128	14.15
Bowles, Mary	141	15.50	Norris, George	41	4.50
Clemons, Jane	140	15.40	Norris, Mattie	171	18.80
Duncan, Jane	128	14.10	White, Sarah	143	15.75
Duncan, John	168	18.40			

"Day hands" added 21¼ cuts to the production, and no amount was shown, as this was figured in their daily wage rate.

The paymaster "rounded off" the wages to the nearest nickel. In addition, four of the weavers had slightly more than the whole number of cuts listed. For instance, Lou Hart had 128½ cuts, her total indicated on the payroll, and was paid accordingly.

During March, 1895 the time worked at Troup Factory was 23 days and the production figures for the month were:

Total Cuts	1,757	Average Daily Yardage	3,149
Total Yards	72,431	Looms Run	52

The number of bales of cotton worked was 54 bales, weighing 26,955 lbs. At the end of the month the factory had 78 bales of cotton on hand.

Baled cotton not in process was stored at the factory in a warehouse. At times cotton was on hand in LaGrange, a distance of ten miles, and Chipley [now Pine Mountain] seven miles away.

### Wage Increases

Operatives at Troup Factory received wage increases after proving themselves on the job. They were awarded increases for improved capacity and occasionally moved into better paying jobs as operatives went "out," or left the employ of Troup Factory.

Anna Borders, beginning at 12¢ per day in March, 1895 was raised to 18¢ in April, during which she worked 26 days and received \$4.68 wages, owing nothing to the commissary.

Carrie Davis, beginning at 10¢ per day, was raised to 12½¢ in May, and dropped to 12¢ in June. Will Davis was raised from 10¢ to 12½¢ in May and dropped to 12¢ in June. Carrie and Will stayed on that wage until April, 1896 when they were raised to 13¢.

Ola Waldrop was raised from 18¢ to 20¢ in June, 1895. Leona Phillips got married in June, 1895 and her wage went up as Mrs. Leona Duncan from 25¢ to 31¢! Kate Porter also moved up from 25¢ to 31¢ per day in June, 1895.

Dan Hart, starting at 12¢, was raised to 13¢ in April, 1895. Charles Hart, who won a raise from 12¢ to 13¢ in May, 1895 stayed put until March, 1896 before he was raised again to 16¢.

It was customary for several members of a family to work in Troup Factory. In the Davis family, Carrie Davis received another raise in March, 1897 to 16¢ a day, after working a year at 13¢. Will Davis finally got a raise from 13¢ to 19¢ in April, 1897 and that month Carrie Davis went up to 19¢.

Carrie Davis was evidently a splendid worker for she was raised to 25¢ per day in July, 1897. At that time, Will Davis was still at 19¢, where he remained until the end of the record.

Meantime, Carrie Davis was raised from 25¢ to 30¢ in August, 1897 and upped to 36¢ in November, 1897 where she remained until the end of the record.

Alice Davis started in August, 1897 at 10¢ per day but was "out" from April, 1898 to end of record.

There was no apparent change in the daily wage rates set for adult jobs and supervisory help during the period. Anna Bowles was at 60¢ per day in March, 1895 and 60¢ at the end of the record in 1898. Ben Ashford was 50¢ then and 50¢ at the end. George Belcher was 50¢ at the beginning of the period and 50¢ at the end, as was Thomas Fulghum, 70¢ and 70¢. Mariah Ferguson was 31¢ in March, 1895 and 31¢ at the end.



Troup Factory Pay Roll Book

50

Payroll for April 1897

1896 Name	Time	Wages of	Boe
Bowers Mary	14 1/2	11	16 05
" Maggie	17 1/4		19 15
Brecher Ella	13 1/2		15 30
Clunions Jane	13 5/8		14 90
Duncan Jane	18 1/2		19 20
Hainy Sallie	18 1/2		15 20
Hark Lou	12 1/2	60	12 70
Norris M	18 1/2		19 90
" L	18 1/2		14 50
White Sarah	17 1/4		19 20
Wolcott Alice	14 1/2		15 75
Bowers Sallie	13 1/2		14 85
Day Hannah	10		
Cuts	18 1/2		
Gas	75 46 4		
P/c Worker	55		
Wgt of same	280 56		
Looms run	52		
P/c on hand	11		
Time	23		
		\$199.70	\$200
			\$199.70
Asafu Ben	25	50	12 50
Bowers John	24 1/2	90	22 05
Lucion	23	60	14 95
Anna	23	60	13 80
Brecher Geo	23	50	11 50
Lou Bowers	22 1/2	38	8 55
Anna "	23	18	4 15
Chas "	23	18	3 45
Carpenter T	23	40	9 20
Boris Wm	20	70	14 00
Mary Ant	40		10 00
Ashin	19	36	6 45
Cony	17	19	3 25
Will	20 1/2	19	3 90
Pauline Thos	24 1/4	50	16 95
Jim	23	12	2 75
Edw	22 1/2	12	2 90
			17 60
			22 95

Name		Time		Wages		Per	Roll
				1350.25	11.00		1339.25
Fryer	M	21 1/2	21	667			
	Andy	19 3/4	20	395			1890
	Anna	23	36	828			
Hanner	S	24 1/2	150	2675	50.50		4385
	C	21	27	785	2.5		
Hay	V	20	40	800	100		1235
	Caen	19 1/2	18	290			
	Mattie	23	15	345			
Hart	Sam	23	16	368			625
	Chas	16	16	257			
Justin	F M	25	75	1875	50.50		2410
	Mattie	21 3/4	27	585			
Justin	F	out	35				
	A	50	13	650	2.5		600
Murphy	B	40	13	520	10		510
Proyther	H	23 3/4	100	3560			2560
Smith	Doc	23	70	1610	50		1560
	Will	25 1/4	70	1765	12.50		1520
	Geo	40 1/2	40	1620	2.5		1595
Woods	John	23	50	1150	35		2120
	Doc	22	30	660			
	Man	23	15	345			
White	R S			5000	700 Part 1/2		
	Cordery	23	75	1725	90 1/2		
	Ben	23	75	1725	54 1/2		7605
	Lewis	23	30	690			
Hoos	M	30	70	2250	2.20		1955
Henderson	Will	15 1/2	40	620			620
Quick	Sam	out	31				
Morgan	Asore	4	75	300	100		200
Hay	Lauch	23	31	715			715
Boyle	B H	4	40	360			360
				1711.60	2670		1674.90

TROUP FACTORY PAY ROLL FOR APRIL, 1897 — Pages 50 and 51 from the paymaster's daybook. A "day" was twelve hours of work. The rate of pay may be determined from the unheaded column following "Time." The "1896" date at the beginning of page 50 is an error. Corless Collection.



### Sheetings and Osnaburgs

The weavers stayed on the 11¢ per cut wage for sheetings until December, 1897. George Norris was paid for his 138 Osnaburg cuts that month at 8¢ per cut, \$11.04, and for 38 cuts of sheeting at 11¢, \$4.18, totalling \$15.22 and rounded off at \$15.20 in wages.

In the resumption of Osnaburgs manufacturing, Mary Bowles had 132 cuts at 8¢, \$10.56, and 52 cuts of sheetings at 11¢, \$5.72, rounded off by the paymaster at \$16.25. Mattie Norris had 132 cuts of Osnaburgs at 8¢, \$10.56, and the highest number of cuts of sheetings for the month, 81 cuts, at 11¢, \$8.91, total \$19.50 wages.

Sarah White had the highest number of cuts of Osnaburgs, 172½, at 8¢, \$13.79, and 39½ cuts of sheetings at 11¢, \$4.35, net wages \$18.15.

During January, 1898 Mattie Norris was paid for her 180 Osnaburg cuts at 8¢, \$14.40, and for three cuts of sheetings at 11¢, 33¢, total \$14.73, rounded off at \$14.75 in wages.

Mary Bowles had 158 cuts of Osnaburgs, at 8¢, \$12.64, and six cuts of sheetings at 11¢, 66¢, working out exactly for the paymaster at \$13.30. George Norris had 132 cuts of Osnaburgs at 8¢, \$10.56, and supplemented his take with some sheetings for the month, four cuts, at 11¢, 44¢, total \$11.00 wages.

Jane Duncan had the highest number of cuts of Osnaburg, 189½ at 8¢, \$15.16, and three cuts of sheeting at 11¢, 33¢, rounding off at \$15.50. She owed the commissary \$1.50, so she drew net pay of \$14.00 for the month of January, 1898.

The split in weaver rates is significant for it shows that the demand for sheetings was off and the factory was trying to balance its production with the coarser fabrics, Osnaburgs. Every weaver shared in the higher wage for sheetings except two, Maggie Bowles and Sallie Borders, who produced only Osnaburgs in January, 1898.

### Back on Sheetings

Things picked up in March, 1898 and all the weavers were back on sheetings. They were paid at the rate of 11¢ per cut. Mattie Norris had 207½ cuts, the highest that month, and Jane Duncan had 204. Their wages were \$22.80 and \$22.45, respectively. Sheeting production was paid for at the 11¢ per cut wage until the end of the record, and this was apparently the only fabric produced.

During the period of the pay roll, John Duncan made the highest number of cuts of sheetings in May, 1895 with 210 cuts. Mattie Norris had 205 cuts in April, 1895. Jane Duncan had 205 cuts in April, 1896. Twelve weavers for the 52 looms of Troup Factory, from first to last, always drew something for their production each month.

The factory did not operate well in August, 1895. Workers made only about six days and less. Mary Bowles produced 28½ cuts of sheetings, at 11¢, \$2.15 in wages. Fannie Fulghum had the lowest number, 14¾ cuts, at 11¢, \$1.60 wages. Total of cuts for the month, including 27½ by the day hands, was 464.

Pay roll for August, 1895 amounted to only \$253.85, less accounts at the commissary, \$33.75, net \$220.10. A notation was made that \$200.00 of the net amount was "paid for work in mill; balance for work on water house and mill repairs."

### Slack Times

Troup Factory was apparently closed during September, 1895 as no pay roll is recorded for that month. It is possible that a miscellaneous maintenance or expense pay roll was paid "out of pocket" or recorded elsewhere.

July, 1896 was a slack time. Most of the operatives worked 12¾ days and less, producing total cuts of 1,013.

During February, 1897 the factory ran about 20 days, but there was a tapering off in time down to three days for some operatives. Total cuts were 1,439½, including a disproportionately large number by the day hands, 157 cuts.

Troup Factory people experienced a poor month in September, 1897. Most of them worked only 11 days and some were down to three days. Production was 845 cuts. October, 1897 was no better, with most of the operatives on the job for 10¾ days, producing 823 cuts.

In November, 1897 the outlook was brighter. Nearly everybody made 20 days in the factory and produced 1,482¼ cuts.

The first months of 1898 seemed a little more promising, but in May the operatives worked about 19½ days, producing 1,340 cuts.



June, 1898 was the final month of operation of Troup Factory. Cuts totalled 1,369, including seven by the day hands, amounting to a total of 55,845 yards for the month. Twelve bales of cotton were worked for the month. What stock was on hand, either in goods or bales of cotton, is not shown.

At the bottom of page 79 in the pay roll book, under the total for June, 1898, \$446.62, are the words: "Mill closed down July 9, 1898."

On page 80, the last in the book, are some short, miscellaneous pay rolls for July, August, September and October, 1898. They are mostly for maintenance, including work on the roof by Ed White, 3½ days at 50¢ per day; a well bucket, 35¢; 3¾ lbs. of nails, 15¢.

Some white waste laps were sold from the factory in August for \$7.00. A small amount of meal from the grist mill was sold.

Famous old Troup Factory was advertised for sale in October, 1898 and sold by the Troup County Superior Court to Lemuel Madison Park in January, 1899.

From the paymaster's book the Troup Factory pay rolls are extracted as follows:

TROUP FACTORY			
Pay Rolls			
* 1895-1898 *			
Year	Total	Account	Net
1895			
March	\$ 736.04	\$ 38.55	\$ 697.49
April	812.11	15.98	796.13
May	790.30	36.85	753.45
June	757.50	32.35	725.15
July	764.50	9.65	754.85
August	253.85	33.75	220.10
September	—	—	—
October	739.38	24.29	715.09
November	756.05	24.95	731.10
December	710.71	59.87	650.84
Totals	\$6,320.44	\$276.24	\$6,044.20
1896			
January	\$ 653.20	\$ 22.05	\$ 631.15
February	750.10	37.30	712.80
March	779.90	26.00	753.90
April	780.30	24.90	755.40
May	730.50	23.28	707.22
June	721.45	44.80	676.65
July	478.10	17.70	460.40
August	594.50	6.65	587.85
September	559.70	18.75	540.95
October	668.68	17.90	650.78
November	748.81	18.07	730.74
December	726.90	71.31	655.59
Totals	\$8,192.14	\$328.71	\$7,863.43
1897			
January	\$ 746.92	\$ 66.85	\$ 689.07
February	596.06	39.90	556.16
March	652.55	50.12	602.43
(Error corrected — Sallie Bowles)			5.13
April	711.60	36.70	674.90
May	543.45	45.62	497.83
June	549.65	22.98	526.67
July	516.65	20.10	496.55
August	546.20	25.80	520.40
September	380.59	20.19	360.40
October	404.30	26.05	378.25
November	636.78	37.88	598.90
December	744.06	59.50	684.56
Totals	\$7,028.81	\$451.69	\$6,591.25

1898			
January	\$ 728.25	\$ 29.50	\$ 698.75
February	664.05	17.05	647.05
March	762.60	20.15	742.05
April	689.80	27.60	662.20
May	594.80	19.40	575.40
June	379.48	16.83	362.65
Less credits for meal from grist mill:		Paid by Mr. Hasty	87.57
R. S. White	\$1.80		
Dave Forrester	.30		
Anna Justice	.30		
Cal Smith	.60		
Ben Ashford	.30		
A. W. Davis	.30		
Totals	\$3,818.98	\$130.53	\$3,772.07

The Troup Factory pay roll book also contains the monthly cloth production reports. They are extracted and compiled as follows:

TROUP FACTORY  
Monthly Cloth Production  
1895-1898

Year and Month	Total Cuts	Total Yards	Average Daily Yardage	Looms Run	Bales Cotton Worked	Weight Cotton lbs.	Bales Cotton on hand	Time Worked (Days)
1895								
March	1,757	72,431	3,149	52	54	26,955	78	23
April	2,029.5	83,852	3,225	52	61	30,619	45	26
May	2,123	87,656	3,246	52	68	33,344	46	27
June	1,968	80,433	3,217	52	64	31,312	13	25
July	1,994	81,526	3,197	52	68	32,349	12	25½
August	464	19,413	3,236	52	14	6,855	30	6
September	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
October	1,704	69,889	2,912	52	49	24,274	165	24
November	1,880.5	77,395	3,127	52	61	29,342	192	24¾
December	1,672	68,551	3,116	52	51	24,313	174	22
Totals	15,592	641,146			490	239,363		203¼
1896								
January	1,482	60,987	3,128	52	49	23,195	166	19½
February	1,935	79,625	3,185	52	59	29,078	117	25
March	2,031.5	83,357	3,206	52	63	31,379	141*	26
April	2,066	85,023	3,270	52	66	32,168	49	26
May	1,912	79,044	3,162	52	60	29,153	42	25
June	1,853	79,504	3,348	52	55	26,754	23	23¾
July	1,013	42,337	3,321	52	—	—	14	12¾
August	1,384	57,340	3,186	52	—	—	5	18
September	1,242	51,338	3,209	52	37	18,191	39	16
October	1,531	63,570	3,101	52	45	22,660	39	20½
November	1,900	78,473	3,270	52	56	28,637	20	24
December	1,871.5	78,335	3,133	52	59	28,226	2	25
Totals	20,221	838,933			549	269,441		261½
* (79 here, 62 in Chipley)								
1897								
January	1,835	75,487	2,960	50	63	31,451	—	25½
February	1,439.5	59,304	3,041	52	44	22,538	6	19½
March	1,625	67,322	3,206	52	50	25,027	11	21
April	1,826	75,464	3,281	52	55	28,056	11	23
May	1,386	57,135	3,174	52	42	20,991	7	18
June	1,419	58,538	3,252	52	44	21,111	12	18
July	1,329	55,177	3,246	52	38	18,560	9	17
August	1,409.5	58,506	3,251	52	44	21,047	2	18
September	845	34,806	3,164	52	28	14,674	23	11

October	823	34,100	3,172	52	24	12,102	29	10 $\frac{3}{4}$
November	1,482.25	61,951	3,098	52	43	22,167	27	20
December	2,271	93,960	3,874	52	77	39,264	4	24 $\frac{1}{4}$
Totals	17,690 $\frac{1}{4}$	731,750			552	276,988		226
1898								
January	2,020.5	85,732	3,572	44	83	41,633	3	24
February	1,645	67,470	2,871	45	50	25,132	23	23 $\frac{1}{2}$
March	2,105.5	86,431	3,201	52	67	33,344	40	27
April	1,963	80,231	3,343	52	61	30,135	3	24
May	1,340	55,847	2,864	51	40	19,807	7	19 $\frac{1}{2}$
June	1,369	55,845	—	—	12	—	—	—
July	Mill closed down July 9, 1898.							
Totals	10,443	431,556			313	150,051		118

The highest production for any month in the period was for December, 1897 with 2,271 cuts and 93,960 yards. Average yardage per day for the 24 $\frac{1}{4}$  days worked was 3,874 yards, or a daily average of 74 $\frac{1}{2}$  yards per loom for the 52 looms operating that month. It was also the highest average daily yardage for the period.

Troup Factory, a country cotton mill, surrounded by an agricultural community from the beginning until the end, was rather remote and undisturbed by urban proximity. Even the Yankees could not find it to burn it!

In the village, there was not much moving in or out of families. Labor turnover at Troup Factory seems remarkably good. As long as there was hope of work, the operatives stayed. Of the 64 operatives on the pay roll of March, 1895 there were 35 on the last pay roll in June, 1898. These operatives were:

Weavers				
Belcher, Ella	Bowles, Mary	Duncan, Jane	Hardy, Sallie	Norris, Mattie
Bowles, Maggie	Clemons, Jane	Duncan, John	Norris, George	White, Sarah
Day Hands				
Ashford, Ben	Davis, Althea	Ferguson, Anna	Justice, F. M.	Smith, George
Belcher, George	Davis, Carrie	Ferguson, Mariah	Justice, Nettie	Smith, Will
Borders, Annie	Davis, Will	Fulghum, Thomas	Murphy, Bettie	White, Ben
Bowles, Anna	Davis, William	Hanner, Clara	Prayther, S. H.	White, Ed
Bowles, John	Ferguson, Andy	Hanner, Dalt	Smith, Cal	White, R. S.

For full time manufacturing, a force of about 64 operatives was employed at Troup Factory. When woven goods and yarns were ready for shipment they were loaded on Ben Ashford's wagon to head to LaGrange or Chipley, the shipping points. Some sales were made at the factory.

During the period considered, there was little change in weavers. Alice Waldrop moved up to this better paying job from day hand in February, 1896. Sallie Borders moved up to weaving in March, 1897 and Verada Hay in August, 1897.

Those newly hired were:

Day Hands				
Borders, Charles	Bowles, McGee	Hay, Lucius	Koon, Virgil	Waldrop, A. W.
Borders, Lou	Culpepper, T.	Hay, Mattie	McGhee, Mattie	Waldrop, Bessie
Bowles, Jennie	Davis, Alice	Hegler, Allen	Morgan, Aaron	White, Lewis
Bowles, Lenora	Forrester, Dave H.	Justice, A.	Phillips, Viola	Wright, Eva
Bowles, Leonard	Fulghum, J. D. F.	Justice, Mary	Quick, Fannie	Wright, Joe
Bowles, Lucian	Fulghum, Jim	Kendall, Will	Smith, Fannie	Wright, Stella
Bowles, Mary	Hay, Callie	Koon, Marion	Swift, Henry	Wright, W. B.

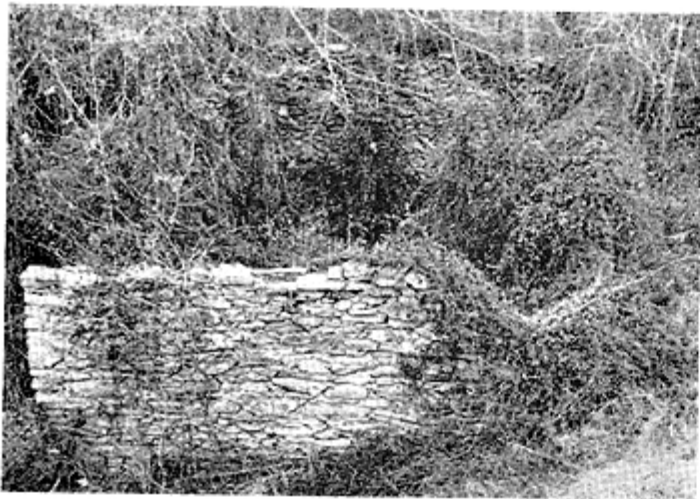
Occasionally in the pay roll book, with the cloth production report for the month, a notation was made of the number of bales of goods on hand at the factory. In March, 1898, 22 bales of sheetings were on hand and eight bales in April. Five bales were on hand in May. For June, 1898, the last month of operation, there was no notation.

After buying Troup Factory in 1899, Lemuel Madison Park operated it on the bank of Flat Shoals Creek until 1902. It was then dismantled and moved to LaGrange, Georgia, ten miles away. Park Mills, the new corporation, went out of business about 25 years later.

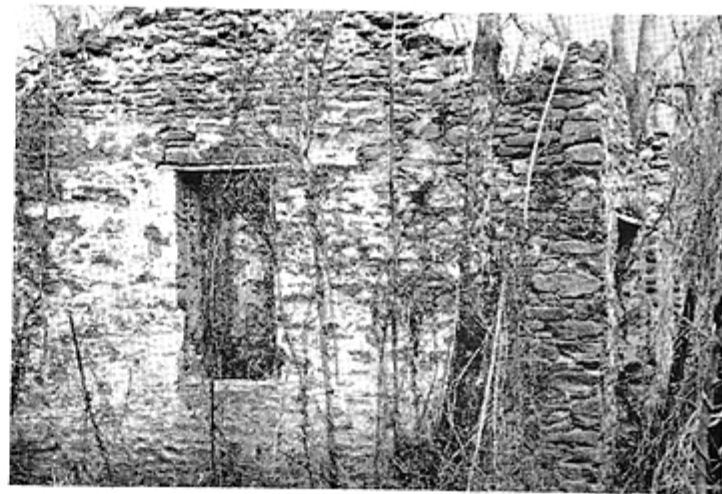
At the Troup Factory settlement, factory and cottages were dismantled and hauled away. The mill families who did not move to farms or elsewhere followed the factory to LaGrange, where a cotton textile manufacturing center was building. Others went to Columbus, Georgia to mills there. Some went to the Chattahoochee River valley and mills of the West Point Manufacturing Company.



## RUINS AT TROUP FACTORY



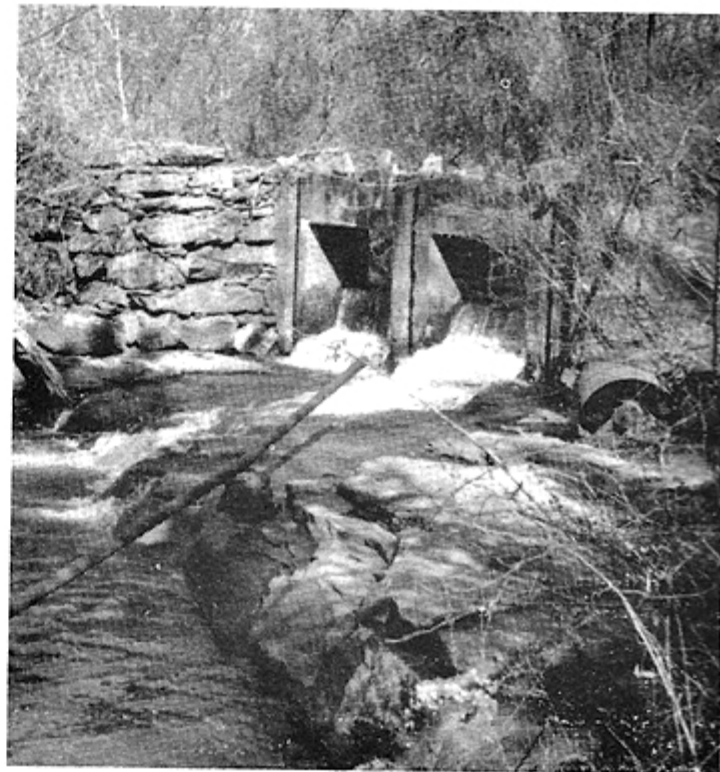
*Vines have smothered the ruins of this rock storage building near the site of Troup Factory. In the rear wall is an opening for a window or ventilator.*



*The substantial field rock walls of this building have withstood floods and wild growth.*



*Old Rock Dam for Troup Factory Water Power. West end of dam.*



*Gates at the East End of the Rock Dam*



**BRIDGE PIER OF FIELD ROCK**  
*This rock bridge pier is on the east side of Flat Shoals Creek. It once supported part of the covered bridge. Present highway bridge is seen upstream.*



*Flat Shoals Creek pours through the wide, broken opening in the rock dam.*

## Troup Factory Recalled

An old mounting block, where gentlemen mounted and ladies were lifted with a manly arm into their buggy or carriage or onto horses, is a native stone monument at the site of the Superintendent's House at Troup Factory. Two large crepe myrtle bushes stand guard at the beginning of a front walk once leading to the house from a picket fence and gate.

While the place was known for years as the Superintendent's House, it was longer the home of Thomas Leslie (1812-1887), one of the founding partners of Troup Factory on Flat Shoals Creek, Troup County, Georgia. The mill here was first established as Brooks' Mill by Maxey Brooks (1791-1861).

James Madison Creed Robertson (1809-1886), of Meriwether County, and Thomas Leslie, of Meriwether and Troup counties, and their associates, bought the Brooks property and established a cotton manufactory there in 1846-47.

The last superintendent of Troup Factory, Robert Southwell White, began in the mill about 1860 as a "sweeper boy" and worked up to superintendent of the factory. He and his family were living in the Leslie home at the time Troup Factory was bought by Lemuel Madison Park in 1899.

Mr. White's daughter, Catherine McGee White, was born at Troup Factory on October 30, 1871. Now Mrs. W. A. Emory, she lives in 1971 at Long Cane Community, Troup County. Mrs. Emory is a remarkable person of "going on 100 years," whose friends call her, among other endearing and admiring terms, "a sweet Southern lady."



MRS. WILLIAM A. EMORY

*Mrs. Emory, nee Catherine McGee White, daughter of Robert Southwell and Martha Lewis Owen White, was born October 30, 1871 at Troup Factory. She lives (1971) in Long Cane Community, Troup County. Photographed on her 97th birthday with her dog "Stubby."*



ROBERT SOUTHWELL WHITE (1841-1905)

*Superintendent of Troup Factory for many years.*

Robert Southwell White was born November 1, 1841 and died January 11, 1905. During the Civil War, "Bob" White and a friend, Joe McGee, left Troup Factory and went to Macon, Georgia. They intended to enlist in the Confederate Army. Bob White was then an overseer in the Troup Factory. When the authorities learned from where the young men came and of their profession, they were returned to Troup Factory to help keep it going during the war. Bob White later served in Company K, 37th Georgia Militia, C.S.A.



Three of the sons of Thomas Leslie, Robert, William P. and Thomas Leslie, Jr., served in the Confederate Army. Thomas, Jr., was wounded and furloughed home to recuperate, where he died in 1864.

Bob White's father was Thomas White, an Englishman, who came to North Alabama, where he married Epsie Pittman. They moved to Troup County and their son, Bob, fell in love with Martha Lewis Owen, born in Greenville, Meriwether County, on October 2, 1841. The sweethearts married in May, 1865 and began housekeeping at Troup Factory. Mrs. White died at the age of 94 years on December 30, 1935.

#### **Mrs. Emory Remembers**

Mrs. Catherine White Emory grew up at Troup Factory. She loved the old, four story factory building, a frame structure with hand hewn timbers put together with pegs, using the mortise and tenon system. She has a remarkable memory of the operations.

Cotton was kept in two or three small rock warehouses, for safety from fire. The opening and picker room was in a separate building at the side of the factory. From the nearest warehouse there was a low trestle on which was laid a narrow gauge steel track. A truck on wheels carried the cotton bales along the track to the opening and picker room.

After the bales were opened and run through the picker machines, the fibre was moved to the end of the picker room. Here there was a "dumb waiter" type elevator built through the roof of the picker room and up the side of the factory. The elevator was used to lift the processed cotton to the carding room on the third floor. It also served the second floor.

Looms for making denims, kerseys, sheetings, shirtings, drills and Osnaburgs were bolted to the second floor. Here the women and girls wove the Troup Factory products and the men loom fixers kept them in repair. There were a few men weavers.

Troup Factory yarns were made on the fourth floor, the spinning room. Yarns were produced for consumption into cloth on the second floor weaving room and for sale, plain and dyed.

The first floor of the factory building was a shipping and branding room. Here the rolls and bales of cloth were branded with the Troup Factory name using an indigo dye. After packaging for protection in coarse woven goods made at the factory, or bagging, the rolls and bales were stencilled with black India ink for shipment.

Factory teams hauled the goods from the shipping room to LaGrange and Chipley, for shipment by railroad to customers in many states. Goods were sometimes stored in LaGrange and Chipley warehouses.

#### **Ben Ashford**

Troup Factory rolls and bales of goods were heavy. There were six mules kept in the stables near the Leslie house. For many years, Ben Ashford, known to everybody at Troup Factory and vicinity as "Ash," lived in a little house close to the stables and cared for the mules and wagons. He was also the driver.

"Ash" was an unusual Negro with extremely long arms, whose "fists hung down to his knees." His feet were of large size and long. It was said of him that he couldn't sit sideways in a wagon body on account of his feet! He was affable and did a good job for years and everybody loved him.

#### **The Dye House**

Near the factory was a building called the Dye House. One of the men who operated this facility was a Mr. Voight. He was a professional dyer and later moved to Columbus, Georgia. There were others holding this important position through the many years dyeing of yarns was done at Troup Factory. A boiler and engine room were at the side of the dye house.

#### **Troup Factory Bell**

A cupola topped the roof of Troup Factory. A large bell hung there. The factory night watchman rang the bell for five minutes every morning at four o'clock. He was never able to catch Mr. White in bed! The bell was also rung in times of emergency as an alarm.

The bell signal was for the operatives and their families to arise, cook breakfast, and get ready to come to work by six o'clock. The factory day was from six to six, with about an hour off for lunch. Most people walked the short distance home for their lunch, although some "toted" their lunch. In the summer, they would sit under the shade trees or along the bank of the creek and eat. When the weather was cold or rainy, they ate inside the mill. An outhouse for employees was maintained in a "toilet tower" over the creek at one end of the mill.



### **Cotton, Corn and Wheat**

During the fall, farmers brought their newly ginned cotton to the mill for sale. Mr. Leslie usually sampled and graded the cotton bought. Later, Mr. White sampled the bales. He or someone designated by him would carry the samples to the bank in LaGrange. There money was obtained to pay the farmers. Sometimes the seller accompanied his samples to town to receive his payment at the bank.

Farmers also brought corn and wheat to be ground. A separate building of two stories contained the grist mill. It was driven by water power from the creek. Corn was ground on "corn rocks" in position on the first floor. Wheat was ground between "wheat rocks" on the second floor.

"Water Ground Meal" and "Troup County Flour" were well known products of the Troup Factory enterprises.

### **The Houses**

Six of the houses of the factory operatives were lined up along a road or street, about level with the top of the mill, but below the Leslie house. The mill was situated on the creek at the foot of a steep hill. Other houses were on the hillside across the Chipley road, and all were on the east side of Flat Shoals Creek.

Catherine McGee White was about ten years old when the owners of Troup Factory since its beginning, Robertson, Leslie & Company, failed in 1881. Mr. Leslie left his beloved factory "an invalid," in poor health, much to the sorrow of the people.

When John Lemuel Robertson, son of James Madison Creed Robertson, became president of the new corporation, Troup Factory, he moved with his family to the place and lived on the same side of the road as the Leslie house, but farther up the hill.

In the Leslie house there were originally four large rooms, about 20 by 20 feet square, with high ceiling. There were short front and back porches. A separate building nearby contained kitchen and dining quarters, known as the "cook house." Close by was a well, serving kitchen and house.

The Leslie house was built by John Owen, a carpenter of Troup Factory, and a brother of Mrs. White. Four additional rooms had been added by the time the Whites lived in the house.

### **First Kerosene Oil Lamps**

Mr. White bought the first kerosene oil lamps for Troup Factory about 1880. Some were bracket mounted on column supports in the mill. Up until that time, when more than daylight was needed, candles were burned. Mill operations were one shift only, in daylight.

Mr. Leslie gave Bob White one of the glass lamps and told him, "Bob, you may have this lamp. I'll be dadburned if one of these will go in my house. Candles are good enough for me."

### **Commissary and Justice Court**

During Catherine McGee White's girlhood, Leslie Dallis and Anderson Leslie, Thomas Leslie's son, "ran" the Troup Factory Store and commissary. It was often a gathering place for the community where people shopped and talked. Many sat around the front of the store and under the very large white oak tree near the right end of the rock store building.

Under the tree, Justice of the Peace court was held by John Thompson. Judge Thompson, known to all as "Squire Thompson," usually drove up for court with an ox hitched to his buggy, in which was loaded his legal tomes, records and paraphernalia of office. Troup Factory was in the Rough Edge District of Troup County and the white oak tree was also the polling place for the voters.

John Thompson lived on the Chipley Road near Troup Factory. He was born September 14, 1829 and died July 5, 1892. He and his wife, Mrs. Martha A. Thompson, born June 23, 1843 and died October 12, 1915 are buried in the Thompson Family Cemetery about one and a half miles from Troup Factory on US 27, south, in a beautifully kept family burying ground.

### **In Troup Factory Village**

Near the store and commissary, where most of the Troup Factory people bought their dry goods, household equipment and provisions, was the woodworking shop of Tom Perry. He is remembered as being a large, industrious man who always wore brogan shoes. He did cabinet work and also made furniture and coffins.

The Troup Factory Masonic Hall was upstairs over Mr. Perry's shop, and regular meetings were held there. The name of the fraternal organization was Troup Factory Lodge No. 115 F.A.M.

Thomas A. Perry and his sons, James Oliver and John T. Perry, were industrious men. They operated a tanyard on Perry Creek, on the west side of Flat Shoals Creek. They had a water powered mill and cotton gin. When the flood of 1902 washed away the covered bridge at Flat Shoals Creek, it destroyed the Perry dam. It was rebuilt in 1902 and a flood in 1903 badly damaged it.

The Perry millrace was long and rather deep. One night a fellow who had been to the Troup Factory "grog shop" and had too much to drink climbed up on it to rest in a breeze. He tumbled into the sobering water. Sides were too high for him to clamber out. He stayed there "hollering all night" in vain before someone rescued him in the morning!

Troup Factory Church, used by all denominations, was on the right side of the Chipley road, near the top of the hill on the east side of Flat Shoals Creek. It was just beyond the old house of the Brooks family.

The church building was a large room about 20 by 40 feet, where church services were held and school taught for the children of the factory operatives. Prayer meetings, political speakings, funerals, church and school socials, weddings, community affairs and "protracted meetings" of the various faiths were held there. Many people of Troup Factory were members of Pleasant Grove Methodist Church on the LaGrange road.

While Dr. William Patrick Gaffney was in the Troup Factory community, Mrs. Gaffney taught in the school. When Catherine McGee White was seventeen, she taught some in the school.

The Troup Factory Church was part of the West Point Circuit, and was generally served by the minister of the Pleasant Grove Methodist Church. The minister of the County Line Baptist Church probably served the Baptists of the community.

Catherine McGee White joined the Pleasant Grove Methodist Church when she was sixteen. She is, in 1971, a member of the Long Cane Methodist Church and the oldest member in the circuit.

Dr. John H. Hardy was a beloved physician of Troup Factory. He lived on the west side of Flat Shoals Creek, on the heights at the old Bob Traylor homeplace. The interesting old home was built by Robert B. Traylor, Sr. (1816-1893). The place is still in the family and is the home of Mrs. Louise Hardy Thompson.

At Troup Factory, during the childhood of Catherine McGee White, her mother cooked on the fireplace in the old kitchen room of the Leslie house. Later, her father bought her mother a "step stove" with four eyes and a small oven.

The Whites made their own candles in molds to light their house long before the days of oil lamps. Mrs. White had an early "lock stitch" sewing machine years before she ever had a "Singer." The children wore stockings knitted by Mrs. White, who also made their clothes.

Catherine McGee White was married to William A. Emory in 1899, when she was 28 years of age. In 1969, she had six children, 19 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren and one great-great grandchild! Mr. Emory, born November 12, 1875 died September 23, 1948.

When she married, Troup Factory had a population of about 400 people. The nearest railroad station was Chipley (now Pine Mountain) in Harris County, seven miles away.

The author is grateful for an interview with Mrs. Emory on February 21, 1966 and information furnished by her.

#### **The Dams**

Charles W. Corless, Jr., in his research, states that the first dam at Troup Factory was built of virgin logs by Maxey Brooks and Ivey Brooks in 1829. About 1846, a rock dam was built below the wooden structure.

The present rock dam is recalled by Mrs. William A. Emory as being built in the summer of 1883. She dates this from the fact that her brother, Lewis White, born February 6, 1883, was a baby at the time. A Mr. Grant came from Newnan, Georgia to supervise the work and boarded with her father and mother while the dam was under construction.

#### **Troup Factory Moved to LaGrange**

Lemuel Madison Park, of LaGrange, purchased Troup Factory in 1899. A series of floods, culminating in the severe flood of 1902, made him decide to move the factory to LaGrange. He began to look for a man to do the big job of hauling.

Mr. Park turned to Charles Warren Corless, a likable "Yankee" from Michigan. In a remarkably short time after coming South, the energy, personality and service of Mr. Corless fitted him into Troup County life.

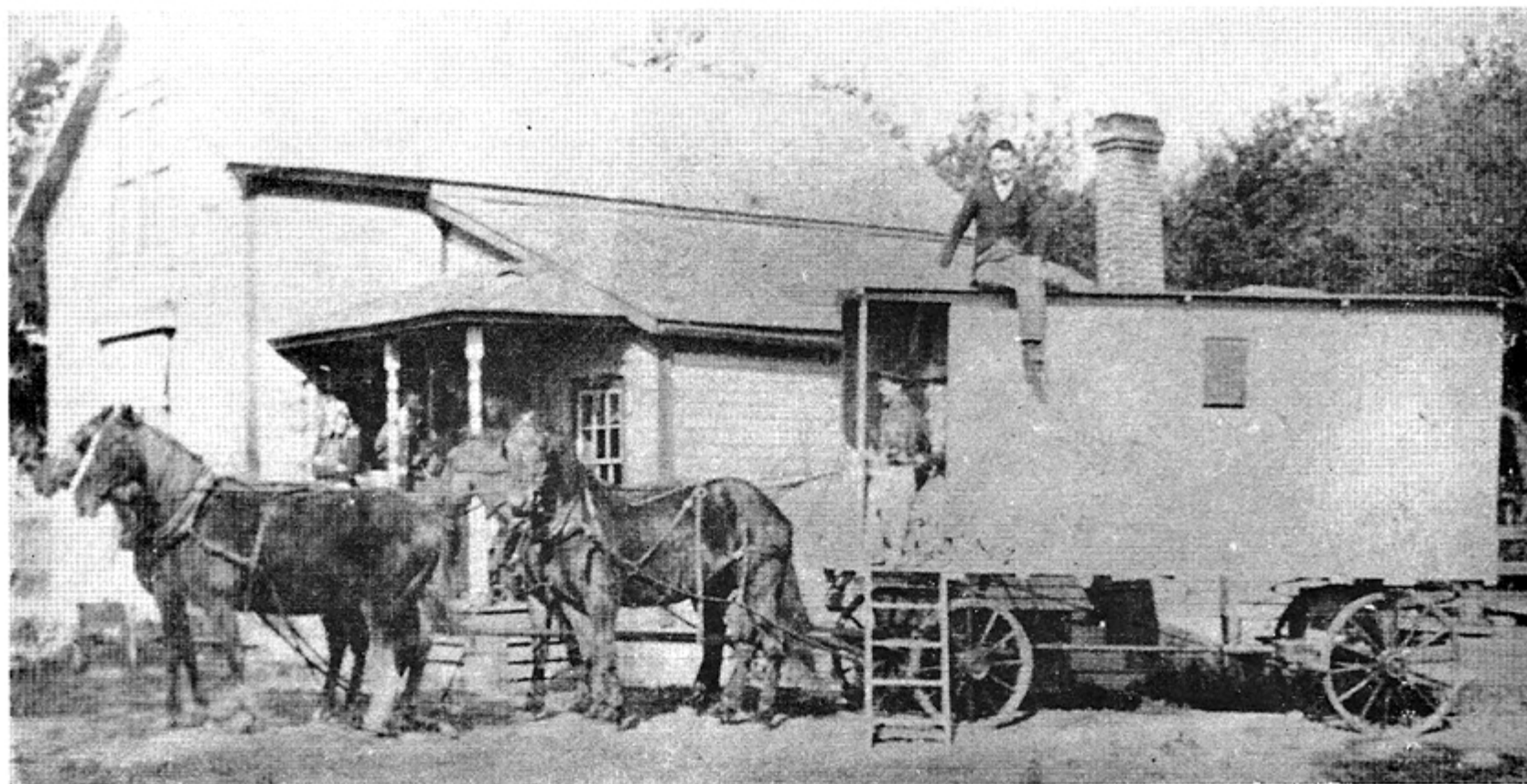


Charles Warren Corless was born October 16, 1869 in Coldwater, Michigan. He was the son of Warren Corless, born July 13, 1832 and wife, Phcebe Bartholomew Corless, born July 17, 1837. They were married January 4, 1855. Warren Corless died February 2, 1879. Mrs. Corless died at Coldwater, Michigan where she and her husband are buried.

Birdie Follett, of California Township, Branch County, Michigan was married to Charles Warren Corless on June 7, 1893. She was born September 19, 1874. Her father was Reuben Follett, born in Dover, Ohio in 1822 and died July 25, 1885, who married Julia E. Kelley, of Dover, Ohio, born October 15, 1833 and died July 19, 1912. Mr. and Mrs. Follett are buried at California Township.

In 1895, Charles Warren and Birdie Follett Corless decided to move South for her health. They headed for Florida but settled on a farm near LaGrange, on Young's Mill Road.

Before leaving Michigan, Mr. Corless built a cottage on wheels for the several weeks journey. The little house sat upon a large wagon chassis. From the photograph, it would appear to be considerably more comfortable than a covered wagon! The author has called it an early American mobile home. Horses or mules pulled it, snug, dry and many years ahead of the times and spirit of trailer or mobile homes in 1971, now replete with every home luxury.



EARLY AMERICAN MOBILE HOME! — Charles Warren and Birdie Follett Corless, Sr., came from California Township, Branch County, Michigan, to Georgia in this "cottage on wheels," in 1895. Corless Collection.

When the Corless family started their trek, the wagon home was heated with a gasoline stove. This had its danger and gasoline was more difficult to obtain as they traveled farther south. In a little town they bought a wood and coal burning stove with an oven for bread and biscuits. They pulled into LaGrange in November, 1895.

Besides being a farmer, Mr. Corless was an excellent mechanic. He went to work for the pumping station supplying LaGrange with water. It was not city owned at the time. Later he became superintendent of the waterworks when they were acquired by LaGrange.

Mr. Corless was an active fireman and became the fire chief of the LaGrange Fire House. He was an acknowledged horse trainer and when the fire house teams were replaced, he journeyed to Michigan to buy them. They were shipped by railroad and he stayed on the cattle cars with them to see the fine animals safely to LaGrange!

The team of horses he brought from Michigan drawing the trailer home was much admired for their size and strength. This was what caught the eye of Lemuel Madison Park when he was thinking of the dismantling and hauling involved in moving Troup Factory to LaGrange.

#### Corless' Horse Prod

Charles Corless hitched teams of horses ahead of teams of mules to pull the wagons, heavily loaded with looms, cards, spinning frames and other equipment. The machinery was dismantled as



much as possible and some put on skids. Along with the mill buildings, a few of the houses of the operatives were taken down and moved to LaGrange. Much of the lumber and framing timbers were used in Park Mills.

The hardest part of the job, Charles Corless knew, was to get the teams and wagons started up the steep hills beyond Flat Shoals Creek as they headed westward to LaGrange. At best the hauling could be done only in dry weather, when the rutty roads were passable with heavy loads.

Balky teams would make the movement extremely trying. Anticipating the problem, Charles Corless solved it in an unique way. Laying out his harness, he carefully wired the cruppers, a leather loop passing under a horse's tail and buckled to the harness. Next he wired the horse collars.

From some of the old style wall telephones of that day he removed the magneto and cranking mechanism. When he hitched up his teams the drivers connected the telephone equipment to the wired harness. A crank or so on the former bell ringing magneto gave the animals a small electric charge or shock. Their tails went up, burden forgotten, and wheels flew!

One day Dr. Frank Morris Ridley (1856-1917), of LaGrange, was ahead of the wagons returning from a call. Mr. Corless yelled for Dr. Ridley to move over to the side of the road, but the doctor was a little slow in maneuvering his buggy toward the roadside ditch.

## BIG AUTO PLUNGES INTO DEPOT AND INJURES TWO

MACHINE BELONGING TO W. C.  
CORLESS, OF LAGRANGE, RUNS  
AMUCK AT COLLEGE  
PARK.

While whirling through College Park about 8 o'clock Sunday morning at a speed of about 20 miles an hour, an automobile belonging to W. C. Corless, of LaGrange, plunged into the railway waiting station. Its chauffeur, Frank McArthur, of 115 1-2 South Pryor street, was thrown into the air, sustaining a broken left arm, a fractured knee and injuries about the head. Mr. Corless, who is a partner with Dr. Frank Ridley in the automobile business at LaGrange, was bruised and cut about the knees and face. As for the machine itself, it will be good for nothing except repair scraps.

Monday morning McArthur, who was taken to the Elkin-Goldsmith sanitarium, was resting easily and under fair way to recover. Mr. Corless left for his home Sunday afternoon. He will return Monday evening to appear at the city court of College Park in answer to charges of having violated the speed limit.

A short distance from the depot the machine ran over a dog. The collision caused it to veer in its course and a moment later it plunged full speed into the end of the station.

When the two occupants of the machine were picked up, they were all but unconscious. Dr. C. M. Curtis, of College Park, gave them immediate relief. Then they were taken to the Elkin-Goldsmith sanitarium.

Marshal Creel, of College Park, who enjoys a wide reputation for holding ambitious speeders to the limit, was a witness of the accident. He made out cases against both men and served them with copies of charges. The trial will take place Monday night.

In speaking of the accident, the injured chauffeur, Frank McArthur, stated that the automobile was running at a speed not greater than 20 miles an hour, when it was thrown from its course and hurled against the station wall by striking against a large pointer dog that ran from underneath a wagon directly in front of the machine.

The automobile was only a light runabout, he said, and its lack of weight and the inadequate steering gear with which it was equipped caused him to lose control of it when the dog was struck.

"Slap against the side of the station it went," he said, "and the machine instantly closed up like a jack knife and twisted itself into all manner of queer shapes. Both Mr. Corless and myself were hurled out, and I was thrown against a telegraph pole. That is the way I got my arm broken.

"My principal regret," he said, as he lay encased in bandages and plaster paris, "is about that dog. When we struck him, he gave a yelp, but as Mr. Corless and myself went hurtling through the air he calmly picked himself up and with a wag of his tail walked off unhurt."

PERILS OF EARLY MOTORING — Mr. Corless' light runabout runs amuck! From an old newspaper clipping. Corless Collection.

The crank was turning. A team of horses and mules pulling a heavily loaded flat bed wagon ran into the rear of the buggy!

All was finally completed to Mr. Park's satisfaction. The old folks remembered the spectacle of Troup Factory moving to town until their dying day. Young ones then, now old, still tell about it.

Charles Warren and Birdie Follett Corless were the parents of seven children: Echo Annetta, Julia Follett, Reuben Follett, Charles Warren, Jr., Eva Redding, Birdsell Brown and Lucile Corless.

Charles Warren Corless, Jr., was born May 9, 1903 in Troup County. As a boy, he was fascinated with the stories of his father's achievement in moving Troup Factory. Like him, he wanted to be an engineer and construction man. Years later he brought a long time dream to reality when he purchased the Troup Factory property.

### Corless of Holly Hill

As Charles Warren Corless, Jr., and his family walked over the Troup Factory property, they "fell in love with it." Soon they decided to camp near the picturesque dam on Flat Shoals Creek. After one pleasant weekend, they made arrangements to move to the place. They have now lived at Troup Factory 35 years!

On a hillside, a giant holly tree covered with red berries was an unforgettable sight. Artists paint it and others photograph its beauty. Many other holly trees grow about the creek banks and hills, so the family named their home Holly Hill.

The Corless family owns about 550 acres of land at Troup Factory. This includes about 165 acres on which are the dam, factory site, cemetery, site of the Thomas Leslie house, and sites of other structures now gone.

The Corlesses moved to Holly Hill in the days before electricity was commonly available in the countryside. Kerosene lamps and lanterns provided light for residents outside cities and towns, excepting those few who owned a Delco electric system or such equipment.

By this time, Charles Warren Corless, Jr., had worked on power dams and navigational facilities in Alabama. He was accustomed to jobs on installations such as Lock 17, on the Warrior River, Jordan Dam and Upper Tallassee Dam. He began to look critically at his own dam on Flat Shoals Creek.

In the gaping middle section of the rock dam and at the east end he installed concrete foundations to hold generating equipment. In time, the Corless home was lighted with direct current from Flat Shoals Creek! As a safety feature, he put a 1000 watt lamp on a pole in the back yard of their home to burn night and day.

The Corless chickens were fed grains and a stalk of corn came up near the electric light pole. The blazing light apparently had some effect on the corn. It grew as tall as the pole! The stalk never bore corn. As they watched the luxuriant growth, the Corless children began talking about "Jack and the Cornstalk!"

Ardent collectors of Troup Factory lore, the Corless family love Flat Shoals Creek. They know its sluggish and swift moods, and like the sight and sound of muddy and clear waters, in season. Big Eddy intrigues them. An aftermath of floods, power and romance of the past clings to Holly Hill.

Their first home at Troup Factory was a small camp house near the eastern end of the rock dam. A flood in 1948 slipped up on them with its fast rising waters. They awoke in the night to step out of bed into water almost knee deep in the rooms! It was a perilous scramble through the torrent to safety on the hillside.

While the camp house did not wash away, they immediately began building a house farther up the hill from the creek. It is comfortable and informal, a delight of the family and the Corless grandchildren, who go up a little ladder, in the old-fashioned way, to sleep in an attic room.

On September 26, 1956 work was begun by Mr. Corless on a larger house, somewhat nearer the dam, but safely up the hillside. The site has a superb view of the creek, and valley. Planned in a modern and functional style, yet showing the originality of the designer, Charles Warren Corless, Jr., the unusual house is still in process of building. Much of the work has been done by Mr. Corless. It is of reinforced concrete throughout, a veritable "bomb shelter" of a house!

A well was bored at the site to be under a corner of the house. It became a built in water system. There are three stories to the house, with front entrance at ground level near the conservatory wing. An entrance to the upper story is made from a terrace on the hillside to the door at the end of a raised concrete walkway, boxed on the sides, and reminiscent of a mill sluice.





HOME OF MR. AND MRS. CHARLES WARREN CORLESS, JR.  
*Pictured under construction at Troup Factory.*



CORLESS HOME AT TROUP FACTORY, 1971  
*The house overlooks Flat Shoals Creek and the old rock dam of Troup Factory. The approach to the front door from a height is reminiscent of a mill-race [the canal in which water goes to a mill wheel].*

The main living floor of the house is now paneled with various hardwoods from the Corless forest and is an attractive and complete apartment. A lower floor, many windowed living room the length of the house on the creek side, is unfurnished. Other areas in the large and fascinating house, which is completely air conditioned, and includes a shop for Mr. Corless and much storage, are in stages of finishing.

Mrs. Corless, Jr., before her marriage, was Nancy "Nan" Kate Lee, of Newton County, Georgia, the daughter of Robert Edward and Kate McHugh Lee. She and Mr. Corless, Jr., are parents of four children, Charles Warren, III, Nancy Carolyn and Julia Sutherlin, twins, and Michael Edward Corless.

Charles Warren Corless, Sr., died December 21, 1938 and his wife, Mrs. Birdie Follett Corless, died July 27, 1954. They are buried in the family plot at Shadowlawn Cemetery, LaGrange. Lucile Corless Hall (Mrs. J. Channing), born July 16, 1913, died February 15, 1968 and is buried there also.

Considerable research has been done by Charles Warren Corless, Jr., on the Troup Factory locale, the Maxey Brooks and other allied families, and land transactions of early Troup County thereabouts. The author is grateful for the use of photographic and other materials from the Corless collection.

#### A Little Boy at Troup Factory

Harold Park, son of Lemuel Madison Park, was born in LaGrange, in 1897. When he was about two years old, the family moved to Troup Factory. His father bought the factory in 1899 and they lived there three years.

Even though he was a small boy, Harold Park remembers how he liked to play on the long porch of the old Thomas Leslie house, where they lived. He remembers the rainy days preceding the disastrous flood of February, 1902. His worried father impressed him and he can remember Mr. Park departing to the mill, wearing his heavy overcoat and boots.

The family sometimes spoke of the flood that year, which was greatly damaging to Troup Factory operations, and the determining factor for removal of the factory to LaGrange sooner than originally planned, as the "greatest since Noah." Silt settled from the receding waters into the looms on the second floor of the mill! Much was ruined on the first floor and there was a huge cleaning up job after the waters went back into the banks of Flat Shoals Creek. Neighbors sent "hands" to help Mr. Park and the Troup Factory men.

Lemuel Madison Park was about 55 years old at the time of this calamity and decided he would not stay in the cotton mill business. The new corporation, chartered as Park Cotton Mills, was a venture of the two older Park brothers, Howard Pope Park and Henry B. Park.

The remaining houses of the factory operatives were torn down by Mr. Park and hauled to College Park, Georgia, where the timbers were used in buildings and houses of that town, first called Manchester, and a new suburban development near Atlanta at the time.

Lemuel Madison Park died on November 19, 1916. He and Mrs. Park and other members of the family are buried in Hillview Cemetery, LaGrange. On his grave are a Masonic emblem and the words: "He stood four-square to every wind that blew."



### Rough Edge District

The Troup Factory area is known as Rough Edge District, 297 G. M., Troup County. The citizens decided to build a shack or shelter for voting purposes and Justice of Peace courts in the long ago. When the framing was up it dawned on the builders that the planks for siding were smooth on only one side. The other side was rough sawed.

A discussion got going among the folks as to whether the smooth edge or the rough edge should be outside. The "rough edges" won and the district from then on was called Rough Edge.

### Some Old Citizens Remembered

Leslie Wellington Dallis was born February 6, 1848. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Hulbert W. Dallis, whose homeplace was near Troup Factory. He died January 3, 1903.

Louisa Leslie, daughter of Thomas and Louisa Villiers Anderson Leslie, was married to Leslie Wellington Dallis in 1871. At his death he had been living in LaGrange for years, prominent and well-to-do. It was said of him that "LaGrange never had a better citizen."

In 1902 there was a Southern Railway train wrecked near Macon, Georgia. Engineer James T. Pittman was killed. He was a nephew of Robert Southwell White, superintendent of Troup Factory for many years. He was also a cousin of Mrs. R. E. Hawkins and Mrs. John H. Hardy, wife of Dr. John H. Hardy of Troup Factory.

Engineer Pittman was born in Troup County in 1860. It is said that around his front yard was a hedge trimmed in topiary fashion to represent an engine and cars!

George Wright, who lived near Troup Factory, died February 6, 1905. He was born November 14, 1824. He joined the County Line Baptist Church in 1876. A Confederate soldier and a Mason, he was a member of Troup Factory Lodge No. 115, F.A.M., about 40 years with honors, and master in the lodge for years.

Twice married, Mr. Wright had six sons and two daughters by his first marriage and two sons by the second marriage. He and other members of the family are buried in the Wright Family Cemetery.

When Mr. Wright died, the survivors reportedly were W. B. Wright, J. V. Wright (1855-1936), Wade Wright (1862-1941), Ab Wright (1875-1953), I. V. Wright and two daughters, Mrs. C. H. Hamby and Mrs. Lizzie Wright Norris.

### A President of Troup Factory

John Lemuel Robertson, son of James Madison Creed Robertson, of Meriwether County, was president of Troup Factory for several years after the reorganization of the business in 1881. He was born in Meriwether County on June 26, 1849.

When he died on June 11, 1903 at his home in Greenville, the "sad intelligence" was telephoned to friends and to the *LaGrange Reporter* in LaGrange. "The brief message brought great sorrow to many of the people of our city," it was stated in an old *Reporter* clipping of his obituary.

His presidency of the factory was mentioned and the fact that "he was also for a long time superintendent of the Sunday School of the First Methodist Church of LaGrange."

He was a good man, brave, fearless and unflinching in doing what he considered the right . . .

Mr. Robertson was well known in LaGrange, having formerly resided here, where his upright, Christian walk was an inspiration to many . . . all his life there breathed about him an atmosphere of purity and virtue that stamped him a man of pious worth and integrity.

R. H. Blalock, writing of his friend in the *Meriwether Vindicator*, said of him that Mr. Robertson "felt at home anywhere among God's people. It was a pleasure and a joy to me to hear him pray. He used no formal array of words, but in the most sincere and earnest manner possible, talked with the Lord. He seemed to get very near the throne and caught inspiration from the very altar of God."

Mr. Robertson died after only a short illness. In his boyhood, he attended the old male academy in Greenville, and afterwards graduated from the University of Georgia. He was admitted to the bar and practiced law for a while, but gave up this profession to look after his father's interests at Troup Factory.

So that his daughters might have the advantages of college educations, he moved to LaGrange. After the graduation of the older daughters, he moved back to Greenville to be nearer his plantation.

Following his return from LaGrange, he was a leader in the Greenville Methodist Church and Sunday School. In his obituary it was said that the pastors of the church found in him ". . . a sympathizing friend and zealous co-worker. Not only at church and Sunday School was he always at

his post, but for the weekly prayer meetings he ever came in from his plantation in time to take part in the devotional exercises."

In the absence of the pastor he led the prayer meeting; in the absence of the Sunday School superintendent he took charge of the Sabbath School. At revival seasons his burning words and fervent prayers showed the deep interest he felt in the salvation of friends and dear ones.

His daily life gave evidences of his constant walk with God and a thorough consecration to the cause of the Master.

In early life, Mr. Robertson was converted and joined the church at Warm Springs. "From the beginnings of his religious life he paid the highest regard to the vows he then assumed. He searched the Scriptures diligently and was well versed in their deep spiritual meaning.

"He made a profound study of every Sunday School lesson and his expositions and lectures were clear and exhaustive.

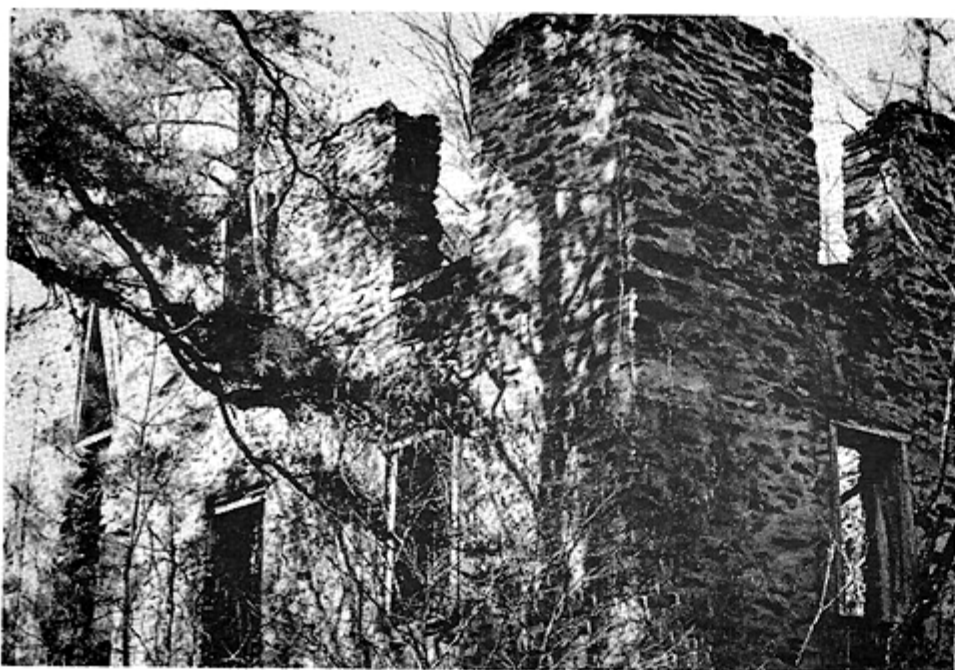
"His great aim was to make the world wiser and better from his having lived in it."

The Greenville Sunday School paid a memorial tribute and drew up resolutions to the memory of their "beloved assistant superintendent and teacher of the Bible class" on June 14, 1903.

### Perry Cotton Gin

From Smoky Road on the west side of Flat Shoals Creek at Troup Factory, little can be seen of Perry Creek to the west of the paved road. It is considerably lower than the road level along there, and the swamp is rather thickly grown.

About a mile from the highway, U. S. 27 South, in a northwesterly direction, Perry Creek comes down from higher ground over rocks and shoals, tumbling and splashing noisily. It has the charm of undisturbed natural beauty.



RUINS OF PERRY COTTON GIN AND GRIST MILL

*James Oliver Perry built this large water powered cotton gin and grist mill on Perry Creek at Troup Factory.*

tery, where children of the couple are buried, also contains the graves of Irb and Clara Oliver Wright, parents of the present owner of the Perry mill property, Douglas Wright, and other members of the family.

Mr. and Mrs. Wright have built a home on the site of the home of Mr. Wright's grandparents. Huge trees and a rock wall along what was once the south side of the garden patch at the old house remain.

James Oliver Perry served during the Civil War in Company K, 37th Georgia Militia Regiment, C.S.A.

There were one or two other houses along the road leading to the Perry house site in the old days. An old chimney stands among huge trees near the new Wright house.

Originally the road led to the Perry Ginnery and Grist Mill, crossing the creek in the vicinity, and on to Smoky Road. It is grown up in trees and underbrush now and impassable beyond the Perry house site.

At a somewhat spectacular spot where the creek spills down a high, slick rock, James Oliver Perry built a water powered cotton gin and grist mill in the 1886-90 period. The Perry family, for whom the creek was named, were early settlers of Troup County at Troup Factory.

The Perry mill was about half a mile from the old pioneer home of Thomas A. Perry (1825-1890) and wife, Permelia J. Earp Perry (1825-1882). They were married on January 18, 1844 and are buried in the Troup Factory Cemetery.

James Oliver Perry, their son, and wife, Anna E. Perry, lived in the old home and are buried in their own Perry Family Cemetery near the site of the Perry house. The ceme-





PERRY COTTON GIN AND GRIST MILL  
*This wall faces the creek and dam.*



ROCK DAM  
*Of the Perry Cotton Gin and Grist Mill.*

The Perry Ginnery and Grist Mill was a boldly conceived undertaking. The building was constructed of rocks picked up from the site and surrounding fields of the Perry farms. Its thick walls were built close to the waterfall over the slick rock. An area was dug out for the two story structure so that entrance could be made at the end away from the creek at the second floor level and on the south side at the lower level. The creek end of the building is sheer, with four windows and two other small openings lower in the wall.

Set about east and west with the creek, the rock dam was built across the creek from an abut-

ment of rock and earth at the north side of the building, eastward about 150 feet to a vanishing point in the hillside opposite.

The middle portion of the dam has been washed out many years. Perhaps 100 feet or more of the sturdy rock work remains, mostly on the east side of the creek. Rocks are piled as high as about twelve to fourteen feet in a massive wall.

Ruins of the splendidly proportioned Perry Ginnery and Grist Mill building dominate the place now. Although some of the sand and lime mortar is crumbling it is still strong and handsome, a structure about 60 feet long by 30 feet wide by 24 feet high. Unroofed for probably most of the years of this century, large pines and other trees grow inside the walls. In some of the window openings, weathered heart pine framing clings. Notches in the upper walls once held the ends of sills and rafters.

Fenestration on the south side is five windows, upper floor, and four on the lower level with the wide door centered under the upper middle window. This is repeated on the north side except there is no doorway.

At the west end, there are two windows and a wide doorway where loaded wagons drew up with cotton from the fields for ginning and corn for grinding into meal.

In the southeast corner of the lower floor level is a pit. No other sign of the gin and grist mill operation remains. The weathering rock walls are a monument to determination and ingenuity of another era.

#### **The Unquenched Thirst**

The grave of little Julia Leslie, aged nine, who died in 1872, is in the Leslie Family Cemetery. She was a victim of typhoid fever. As she lay abed, burning with fever, she kept calling for water. When it was brought, fresh from the depths of the well, it never seemed to quench her thirst or cool her forehead.

As the years went by, the well became known as Julia's Well. Tales were told by persons who swore they saw little Julia in the nighttime drawing water at the well!



There was an old house nearby in which tenants lived to farm. Finally the story of the unquenched thirst made it impossible to keep a tenant there and the house was torn down. Julia's Well was filled with rock and dirt!

Does a ghostly child dig at the spot? Some think so. At the thought of feeble hands clawing to reach blessed coolness far below the rocks and rubble they shiver.

Little Julia was the daughter of Anderson and Virginia A. Reid Leslie.

#### Postmasters of Troup Factory

When Robertson, Leslie & Company began operations at the Troup Factory in 1846-47, people moved into the community as houses were built for operatives. Thomas Leslie, partner with James Madison Creed Robertson in the venture, became the first postmaster on April 5, 1847.

Postmaster Leslie served until the post office, Troup Factory, Georgia, was discontinued on June 5, 1867.

The second postmaster was William Varnum Gray (1847-1921), nephew of Thomas Leslie. The Troup Factory post office was restored on June 19, 1874.

Other postmasters and the date of their appointment:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Date</i>
Abbie T. Dallis	November 16, 1875
John Lemuel Robertson	December 20, 1880
James Oliver Perry	March 16, 1881
Charles T. Freeman	February 23, 1888
Robert Southwell White	January 22, 1890
Andrew J. Irvin	June 24, 1891
George W. Jenkins	November 28, 1894
Samuel W. Hasty	January 15, 1897
Charles A. Wagner	October 2, 1899
Lemuel Madison Park	December 28, 1899
W. N. Jones	March 22, 1900
William A. Emory	May 14, 1900
Howard Pope Park	January 5, 1901

Troup Factory, Georgia post office was discontinued on April 24, 1902. The effective date of discontinuance was May 15, 1902 and after that Troup Factory mail passed to LaGrange, Georgia post office.

#### A Troup Factory Physician

Dr. R. A. Justiss is a physician remembered in the Troup Factory community. He began his practice at Troup Factory before 1900. When the factory was sold and removed to LaGrange by Lemuel M. Park in 1902, the Troup Factory community began to decline.

Dr. Justiss began a private practice at his home in LaGrange. He had a handsome buggy with carriage lamps. The lamps were lit when he made night calls. John Moss, his Negro driver usually accompanied him on his house calls in LaGrange and surrounding community.

#### The Priddys

The Priddy family were among early settlers of the Troup Factory community. Priddy Road was named for the family.

Benjamin Priddy (1788-1843), and his wife, Mrs. "Beedy" Priddy, came from Virginia to North Carolina, thence to Georgia. They settled first in Newton or Twiggs County, Georgia, later moving to Troup County after lands were opened for settlement. Their daughter, Martha Caroline Priddy, was born in Troup County in 1832. She grew up to be married to John Curtis Elliott Floyd (1832-1890), of a pioneer Troup County family. Mrs. Floyd died in 1899.

Land Lots No. 21 and 54 of the Fourth District, Troup County, were bought by Benjamin Priddy in 1838 and 1842, respectively. He and his wife are buried not far from his old home site. The graves were once marked by wooden pavilions, but these have rotted away. Their graves are believed by

Priddy family descendants to be about one mile east of the present Priddy Family Cemetery on Priddy Road, which is in the grove at the home of J. H. Pruitt.

It is recalled that in 1930 the Benjamin Priddy house site was covered with *vinca minor* and only a pile of stones remained from the chimney.

Dr. Robert T. Priddy was the son of Benjamin Priddy. He was an early physician of the Troup Factory and Pleasant Grove communities. Dr. Priddy was born in North Carolina on March 30, 1814 and died August 21, 1885. He married Anna Truitt of Troup County.

Mrs. Anna Truitt Priddy lived in LaGrange on Main Street following the death of her husband. She was 74 when she died there on Sunday, April 4, 1909. Her survivors were two sons and one daughter, O. T. and R. B. Priddy, of LaGrange, and Mrs. John T. Roberts, of West Point, and a sister, Mrs. Mattie Griggs, of Fayetteville, Georgia.

After her funeral in LaGrange, at which the Rev. Dr. Walker Lewis officiated, she was interred beside her husband in the family cemetery.

Others buried near Dr. and Mrs. Priddy are Mrs. Sarah S. Beehan, born September 10, 1800 and died May 3, 1879, and Claud R. Roberts, son of John T. and Dora Roberts, born May 18, 1876 and died June 15, 1878. There are also some unmarked graves.

According to Floyd family descendants, other children of Benjamin Priddy were:

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 1. Jackson Priddy<br>born in North Carolina<br>died young                                       | 2. Jane Priddy<br>born in Newton or<br>Twiggs County, Georgia<br>married to Anderson Smith,<br>a chair maker | 3. Terillis Priddy<br>born in Newton or Twiggs<br>County, Georgia<br>married to James Smith |
| 4. Elizabeth Priddy<br>born in Newton or Twiggs<br>County, Georgia<br>married to Fayette Culver | 5. Lorena Priddy<br>born in Newton or Twiggs<br>County, Georgia<br>never married                             |   |

#### A New Troup Factory Letterhead

J. L. ROBERTSON, PRESIDENT.



— OFFICE OF —  
TROUP FACTORY,

— MANUFACTURERS OF —

SHEETINGS, SHIRTINGS, DRILLS, ETC.

*LaGrange, Ga. June 26<sup>th</sup> 1886*

*As I write the date June 26<sup>th</sup> I am reminded  
ed that I am in the presence of another  
recurring birth day: and as the figures 37.*

TROUP FACTORY LETTERHEAD, 1886 — The Troup Factory, formerly owned and operated by Robertson, Leslie & Co., was reorganized as Troup Factory, a corporation, in 1881. John Lemuel Robertson was president of Troup Factory in 1886. He was the son of James Madison Creed Robertson, president of Robertson, Leslie & Co. For the text of John Lemuel Robertson's letter, written on his 37th birthday, see page 344.